

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY)

Mission

The mission of the Master of Arts is to produce biblically, theologically, and spiritually discerning Christian thinkers who can serve the body of Christ in lay, parachurch or academic ministries. The Master of Arts program provides both a general biblical, theological, and spiritual foundation for reflection and a specialized focus on a discipline crucial to fulfilling Talbot's mission and from which students can serve or go on for advanced study. These disciplines include Bible Exposition, Biblical and Theological Studies in the Eurasian Context (Kyiv extension only), New Testament, Old Testament, Philosophy, Spiritual Formation, and Theology.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Arts, students will be able to:

1. Integrate a sound understanding of Scripture with the contents of their respective emphasized disciplines (ULO 3).
2. Explain the major doctrines of Christianity, including their biblical basis and contemporary relevance (ULO 1).
3. Students will be able to demonstrate abilities relevant to personal spiritual formation, including an understanding of spiritual theology, knowledge of God & self, relational skills, and an understanding of their vocation (ULO 1, 2, 3).
4. Perform and report research in their respective disciplines at a level sufficient to begin a doctoral program (ULO 3).

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/#UniversityLearningOutcomes>) of this catalog.

Theology (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/g/theology-ma/>) Specialization Learning Outcomes

As a result of this program, the student will be able to explain the major doctrines of Christianity, including their biblical basis, historical development, and contemporary relevance, and assess non-evangelical doctrines from an evangelical perspective.

Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess a Bachelor of Arts degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited college with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants who do not possess a Bachelor of Arts degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited institution may still apply and may be provisionally admitted at the discretion of Talbot School of Theology. Additionally, applicants should have completed an accredited course in Old Testament survey and in New Testament survey prior to matriculation. To meet the prerequisite, students must have received a C or higher in approved undergraduate or graduate survey courses from a regionally accredited institution.

If the prerequisite courses are not completed prior to matriculation, the student is required to take TTBE 519 and TTBE 520 during their program.

All applicants must submit a written statement outlining their vocational objectives and how the degree might relate to those objectives.

Graduation Requirements

1. Satisfactorily complete 49 credits as outlined in the curriculum requirements below. The rate of progress for many students is 13–14 credits per semester, allowing the program to be completed in two years.
2. Students without previous undergraduate courses in Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey must take TTBE 519 and TTBE 520 in addition to the standard curriculum.
3. Complete the online introduction to theological research and writing by the end of the second semester.
4. Submit an acceptable capstone project, as determined by the department of specialization. Students will receive specific directions about their capstone project from their respective departments.
5. At least 24 of the total credits required for the degree program must be completed in residency at Biola. Advanced Standing, Reduction and transfer credit are not considered residency credits.
6. Obtain a 3.0 average with no grade below a C- in all courses to be credited toward graduation.
7. Complete the entire program in no more than five years.
8. Meet with a graduate academic records and degree specialist in the Office of the Registrar one year prior to graduation to declare intent to graduate. (See the Graduate Graduation Application section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/graduation-and-degree-conferral/graduate/#GraduateGraduationApplication>).

Program Requirements

Specialization Requirements

Program Structure

The academic programs leading to the degree Master of Arts with a specialization in Theology is comprised of 49 credits, including:

1. Biblical and theological foundations.
2. Spiritual Formation Focus (SFF).
3. Academic specialization in one of four disciplines requiring biblical language studies, or general studies in which biblical languages are not required.
4. Additional elective courses determined by the student in consultation with the advisor.

Students may complete this specialization online, on-campus, or by a combination of those two modalities.

Combined B.A. - M.A. Program

Students in Biola University's Bachelor of Arts in Bible, Theology, and Ministry with a concentration in Theology may take graduate courses in their senior year, allowing the completion of a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in an accelerated format. See the Bachelor of Arts in Bible, Theology, and Ministry (<https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/BBTM-ba/>) for the undergraduate portion of the accelerated B.A. - M.A. program.

Advanced Standing

Applicants who have taken undergraduate courses in biblical or theological studies may request advanced standing based on collegiate work. See Talbot Admissions Requirements for details. Note: if master's level courses are given advanced standing based on undergraduate coursework, some Ph.D. programs may require additional graduate courses in order to meet doctoral program requirements.

Biblical Languages Requirement

Hebrew

The Hebrew courses listed below are required for the Hebrew track. Qualifying examinations to test out of TTOT 603 or TTOT 604 are available to all interested students. Depending on exam results, a student may enroll directly into TTOT 604 or TTOT 703. For any language courses waived by the qualifying examination, the student should take an equal number of credits in any department at Talbot (3 or 6)

Greek

The Greek courses listed below are required for the Greek track. Qualifying examinations to test out of TTNT 501 or TTNT 502 are available to all interested students. Depending on exam results, a student may enroll directly into TTNT 502 or TTNT 503. For any language courses waived by a qualifying examination, the student should take an equal number of credits in any department at Talbot (3 or 6).

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Prerequisite Courses		
TTBE 519	Old Testament Survey	
TTBE 520	New Testament Survey	
Program Courses		
TTBE 517	Hermeneutics and Bible Study Methods	3
TTSF 501	Introduction to Spiritual Theology and Formation	3
TTSF 503	Personal Foundations for Spiritual Formation	3
TTSF 504	Spiritual Formation, Vocation, and the Disciplines	1
TTSF 505	Talbot Spiritual Direction I	0
TTSF 506	Talbot Spiritual Direction II	0
TTTH 521	Theology I: God, Scripture, Creation	3
TTTH 522	Theology II: Christ, Humanity, Sin, Salvation	3
TTTH 623	Theology III: Spirit, Church, Last Things	3

Theology Specialization Courses		
TTHT 505	Patristic and Medieval Theology	3
TTHT 506	Reformation and Modern Theology	3
TTTH 709	Contemporary Theology	3
TTTH 714	Christology	3
Select one of the following:		3
TTTH 733	World Religions	
TTPH 602	Apologetics	
Select either the Hebrew, Greek, or Bible Exposition option below		15
Hebrew Option		
TTOT 603	Elements of Hebrew I	
TTOT 604	Elements of Hebrew II	
TTOT 703	Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis	
Select 6 credits of General Elective courses ¹		
Greek Option		
TTNT 501	Beginning Greek I	
TTNT 502	Beginning Greek II	
TTNT 503	Introduction to Exegesis	
Select 6 credits of General Elective courses ¹		
Bible Exposition Option		
TTBE 530	Elementary Principles of the Biblical Languages	
Elective courses from TTBE, NT, OT (Select 3 approved credits)		
Select 9 credits of General Elective courses ²		
Total Credits		49

¹ Students may take up to 6 graduate elective credits in other schools of Biola University with advisor's approval.

² Students may take up to 9 graduate elective credits in other schools of Biola University with advisor's approval.