MASTER OF DIVINITY

Mission

The mission of the Master of Divinity (https://www.biola.edu/degrees/g/master-of-divinity/) degree program is to equip servant leaders for making disciples worldwide by developing in them an accurate knowledge of the Word of God, the skills necessary to communicate the Gospel effectively, and character worthy of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ for the leading of the church.

The Master of Divinity is offered with the following specializations:

- Evangelism and Discipleship (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPEV/)
- Messianic Jewish Studies (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPMS/)
- Missions and Intercultural Studies (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPMI/)
- Pastoral and General Ministries (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPPA/)
- Pastoral and General Ministries - Korean (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPKP/)
- Pastoral and General Ministries - Spanish/ (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPSP/)Ministerios Pastorales y Generales
- Pastoral Care and Counseling (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPCC/)
- Spiritual Formation (https://catalog.biola.edu/tst/mdiv/TPSF/)

Program Description

The Master of Divinity curriculum at Talbot School of Theology is designed to foster the purpose for which the seminary was established — education for the propagation of the faith. This purpose entails an accurate knowledge of the Word of God — the source of faith and the effective means of its communication. The course of study is therefore designed around these two basic foci.

Believing firmly that God in love and grace has provided an answer for the needs of the world in Jesus Christ, and that this Jesus is the Christ of the Scriptures, Talbot emphasizes a knowledge of the content of the Word of God. In order that the Word may be known and expounded accurately and authoritatively, matters of biblical background, including the languages of the Old and New Testaments, are studied. Sound principles of literary interpretation are also explored as a basis for the interpretation of the Scriptures. On the basis of such interpretation there comes systematic study so as to organize various parts of the Word into theological categories.

Since the faith of today does not stand alone but is rooted in past centuries during which God has preserved and instructed His people, cognizance of this heritage is taken in a study of the history of the Church and its doctrine. Previous interaction between faith and the world provides a basis for understanding modern times.

It is the seminary's aim that this knowledge of the faith first grip the life of the student and then motivate the student to share it with the world. In accord with this latter aim instruction is given in vital areas of ministry and communication. From the preparation and delivery of sermons to individual involvement in counseling, the curriculum is designed to provide instruction that will facilitate propagation of the faith in the various fields of God's call. Opportunity is also given for the development of ministry skills as principles are applied in the context of ministry in the Church.

With recognition that the Great Commission commands the Church to go into the world to minister to all peoples, the cross-currents of modern thought are considered relevant to the preparation of God's minister. Throughout the course of instruction, interaction is provided with various perspectives for the purpose of inculcating their contributions and understanding their divergences. All the while they are measured by the pattern of the Word.

Talbot's program focuses on the entire person and is meant to contribute to personal spiritual formation as well as cognitive awareness and the development of ministry skills. The curriculum is structured to develop sustainable habits that can be continued in life and ministry after graduation. The various components of the curriculum are designed to complement one another and to reinforce basic principles to which students have been exposed in other parts of their seminary program. A goal of the program is to equip students to think biblically and to respond appropriately to the variety of challenges of life and ministry.