Master of Arts in Ministry Studies

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Program Director
MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY STUDIES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The M.A. in Ministry Studies (MAMS) is a 36-hour pre-professional degree designed for those seeking support positions and leadership positions in the local church. It is a program designed to provide first professional training for those who are already in support ministries in the church or planning to engage in support ministries in the church. This degree is not designed for those desiring to be the senior or lead pastor of a local church. Those who complete this degree will receive training to prepare and equip ministry leaders with the necessary personal, professional, and theological training for ministry other than the Senior Pastor in a local church.

This program strikes a balance between foundational theological preparation and real life ministry training. Generally, the education offered by this department is not terminal, in the sense of providing everything a student needs for ministry. Further study is encouraged, such as that offered at the seminary level, but the departmental curriculum is designed to provide the best possible foundation for future study and ministry.

The M.A. in Ministry Studies is designed to add to the body of knowledge gained in Grace’s undergraduate biblical studies programs and to train those who have not pursued undergraduate training in biblical studies for positions of support and leadership in the local church. Note that graduates of the Department of Biblical Studies may gain advanced standing in Grace Theological Seminary.

Purpose
To assist in the theological training of staff and personnel for lay leadership in church.

Program Goals and Assessment
The program goals are designed to augment and support the mission of Grace College, which is:

An evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies Biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service

It also supports and promotes the purpose of the School of Ministry Studies, which is to,

A learning community dedicated to teaching, training, and transforming the whole person for local church and global ministry.
The goals of the M.A. in Ministry Studies are that those who complete the degree will:

1. Engage a process of critical evaluation of personal character, and cultural awareness needed to effectively lead in a ministry context.

2. Be challenged to sharpen the competencies needed to interpret, understand, and effectively communicate the Word of God in a ministry context.

3. Apply the knowledge gained throughout the program by engaging in real ministry directed learning tasks that demonstrate a preparation for service and apprehension of the principles and practices needed for effective ministry leadership.

Learning Outcomes

1. Learners will journal the practice of prayer in the context of personal, married, and ministry life recording progress in the discipline of prayer as part of the character of a ministry leader (G1)

2. Learners will complete a self assessment related to culture and spiritual formation that will result in a plan of action for implementation and assessment of needed areas of personal development (G1)

3. Learners will construct a philosophy of ministry that will address key areas of ministry practice and discipline (G1)

4. Learners will demonstrate sound biblical interpretation of a passage of Scripture and preparation of that passage for ministry proclamation (G2)

5. Learners will evidence an understanding of sound biblical interpretation by designing a seminar for delivery in a ministry setting on how to study the bible (G2)

6. Learners will construct a personal theology which will be able to be used as a means of demonstrating a firm grasp of the nature of God, man, sin, salvation, ministry, and the future (G2)

7. Learners will give evidence of the ability to practically perform ministry activities like a wedding, funeral, communion, or baptism as an evidence of the preparation for service (G3)
8. Learners will give evidence of the critical need for godly leadership in ministry through successful completion of a series of papers reflecting critical areas of ministry leadership (G3)

9. Learners will engage in an evaluation of their own cultural issues and biases that will expose the need for cultural sensitivity (G3)

On a yearly basis faculty will evaluate the imbedded elements of this assessment to determine the effectiveness and level of mastery of those elements to the program. A full assessment program is being developed with rubrics to measure the success of each element contained in the program. Information will be used to better construct learning activities to insure that each student is prepared for ministry in a local church setting.

Schedule
The M.A. in Ministry Studies uses a modified cohort model. Courses are offered on a two-year rotation beginning in the fall. Students are automatically registered for their classes and may be granted permission to enter the program at various times during the rotation.

Students will complete twelve (12) 3-credit courses for a total of thirty-six (36) credit hours in a "cohort" based model. "Cohort" means that students will join the program along with another group of students and continue with this same group, or cohort, for the entire program. If students’ schedules change and they must skip a semester, or wish to take classes at a pace slower than the suggested two-year program, they may interact with other cohorts in the program.

All the online classes are 8 weeks long. Students who join a cohort in the fall complete two 8-week courses in the fall (September - December, 16 weeks), two in spring (January - May, 16 weeks), and two in the summer as needed (May - August, 16 weeks).

Delivery Formats
The M.A. in Ministry Studies degree is delivered in a hybrid-online format, with some limited on-campus work on the Winona Lake, Indiana campus to support the majority of work completed online.

The hybrid-online format enables students to work full time and take one 8-week long course at a time. The format is flexible enough that students can complete their course assignments around their own specific weekly schedule.
Information regarding the technology and user-skill requirements for the hybrid-online program are available on the Office of Information Technology page of the institution’s Web site.

**Handbook**
This catalog functions as the M.A. in Ministry Studies handbook; however, students are asked to refer to the seminary handbook or catalog for guidelines related to community lifestyle expectations while enrolled in this program.

**Program Admission and Completion**
Graduates of Grace College’s Department of Biblical Studies may gain advanced standing in Grace Theological Seminary.

**Admission Requirements**
Students must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in order to be accepted into the program.

The admission application can be completed online and includes three references.

Official transcripts from schools previously attended as well as two recent pictures are also required for an application to be evaluated.

**Degree Requirements**
The M.A. in Ministry Studies consists of 12 three-hour courses or a total of 36 hours in ministry preparation. This graduate-level degree is offered through the college.

**Ministry Foundation Courses: 21 Hours**
- MIN 501 Theological Seminar 1
- MIN 502 Theological Seminar 2
- MIN 510 Bible Study Methods
- MIN 520 Old Testament Survey
- MIN 521 New Testament Survey
- PM 601 Spiritual Formation
- PM 660 Principles & Practice of Prayer

**Ministry Concentration Core: 15 Hours**
- MIN 530 Historical Development of Doctrine
- MIN 531 Ministry & Cultural Diversity
- MIN 532 Ministry Leadership
- MIN 534 Ministry Preaching & Teaching
- MIN 535 Ministry Philosophy for the Church
Contact
For additional information about admission requirements or course enrollment and completion, please contact the Director of Seminary Admissions, Grace College, 200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590 at 877.607.0012) or visit http://www.grace.edu/academics/onlineprograms/ or e-mail at mams@grac.edu.

Courses

MIN 501 Theological Seminar 1
An introduction to theology and its sources. Foundations will be laid in the areas of prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper, Christology, Pneumatology, and Angelology. Three hours.

MIN 502 Theological Seminar 2
An introduction to theology and its sources. Foundations will be laid in the areas of: Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology. Three hours.

MIN 510 Bible Study Methods
This course is designed to introduce learners to the basics of biblical interpretation and practical biblical inquiry. This course will cover essential elements of Hermeneutics as well as give practical training in bible study methodology focusing on the historical-grammatical interpretative method in the inductive bible study format.

MIN 530 Historical Development of Doctrine
An overview of the development of doctrine in the church from the Apostolic Fathers through the 20th-century. The focus will be on church confessions, major theological movements and controversies, and important theologians. Three hours.

MIN 520 Old Testament Survey
An introduction to the Old Testament with special reference to background, historical setting, literary composition, theology and message. After successfully completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate a knowledge of background issues which introduce one to the study of various concepts of the Old Testament, the historical milieu of each Old Testament book studied, the purpose and general content of each Old Testament book studied, the use of the Old Testament in modern ministry, and the foundation the Old Testament provides for the New Testament. Three hours.
**MIN 521 New Testament Survey**
This course introduces the New Testament with special reference to background, historical setting, literary composition, theology and message. After successfully completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate a knowledge of background issues which introduce one to the study of various concepts of the New Testament, the historical milieu of each New Testament book studied, the purpose and general content of each New Testament book studied, the relationship between the New and Old Testaments, and the use of the New Testament in modern ministry. Three hours.

**MIN 535 Ministry Philosophy for the Church**
This course seeks to promote appropriate ministry perspectives especially as applied to the local church in North America. Two main areas will receive attention: 1) the attitudes and responsibilities of a servant leader of the local church, and 2) a philosophy of local church ministry. In addition, a variety of specific applications of New Testament ecclesiology are discussed and applied to contemporary life and ministry. Three hours.

**PM601 Spiritual Formation**
This course investigates the biblical and personal foundations of spiritual growth known theologically as sanctification. It is designed to help the learner understand the impact of family history, personal development and life experiences on one’s theological outlook, emotional maturity, relational patterns, moral decisions and ministry effectiveness. Through personal prayer projects, experiential learning and small group interaction, learners will gain a richer sense of self-awareness in order to open more deeply to the love and truth of God. This integrative course attempts to connect theological truth to life in order to explore God’s design for growth and how the individual might cooperate within the context of a developing relational Christian spirituality. Three hours.

**PM660 Principles and Practice of Prayer**
Recognizing that prayer is a primary activity of every Christian, the basic biblical principles of prayer are carefully studied. The prayer life of the pastor/missionary, along with the responsibility of leading a congregation in its prayer ministry, will receive special attention. Three hours.

**MIN 534 Ministry Preaching and Teaching**
This course combines both theory and practice. It introduces a functional methodology of organizing and developing the elements of a sermon. It examines issues of bridging exegesis and exposition as well as the application of biblical truth and the effective delivery to listeners. Approximately one-
third of the course is devoted to a lab setting where lessons and sermons are videotaped and critiqued. Note that students not having previously taken a public speaking course may be required to take such a class as a prerequisite of the course. Prerequisite: TH511 or TH603. Three hours.

**MIN 532 Ministry Leadership**
Through the use of reading and writing assignments, online discussions, pastoral interviews, and a self-assessment and action plan paper, the following leadership topics will be covered: servant leadership, mentoring, visionary leadership, and leading as a change agent. Eight weeks of course work will be conducted independently and on-line, culminating in a final paper. Three hours.

**MIN 531 Ministry & Cultural Diversity**
This course is intended to provide students with a basic understanding of the elements of culture and how they affect biblical ministry in intercultural and multicultural contexts. It is designed to help Christian workers become more effective in those contexts as their understanding permits them to shape their ministry to penetrate other cultures more deeply and, therefore, apply God's Word more accurately. Three hours.