

Master of Arts in Ministry Studies



Faculty

John Lillis, Ph.D., Interim Program
Director

Matthew S. Harmon, Ph.D.

Christine M. Hill, Ph.D.

Rock M. LaGioia, D.Min.

Tiberius Rata, Ph.D.,

Thomas M. Stallter, D.Miss.

John Teevan, D. Min.

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 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:

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

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)

1. 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)
2. Learners will construct a philosophy of ministry that will address key areas of ministry practice and discipline (G1)

3. Learners will demonstrate sound biblical interpretation of a passage of Scripture and preparation of that passage for ministry proclamation (G2)
4. 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)
5. 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)
6. 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)
7. 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)
8. 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 embedded elements of this assessment to determine the effectiveness and level of mastery of those elements to the program. A full assessment program has been 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 first session of classes. Students will self-register for all additional sessions. If students fail to register for at least one session during the fall or spring semester it will be necessary for them to contact the School of Professional and Online Education at 888.249.0533 or online@grace.edu. 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 7 or 8 weeks long. Students who join a cohort in the fall complete two 8-week courses (~~August—August~~ - December, 16 weeks), two 8-week courses in spring (January - May, 16 weeks), and two 7-week courses in the summer (May - August, 14 weeks).

Please view the institution's [Campus Calendar](#) for more information.

Delivery Formats

The M.A. in Ministry Studies degree is delivered in a fully online format. The 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 online program is available on the Office of Information Technology page of the institution's Web site.

Technology Requirements

Information regarding the technology and user-skill requirements are available on the Office of Information Technology page of the institution's Web site. <http://www.grace.edu/resources/technology-support>

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.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Grace College and Seminary is a private, not-for-profit, faith-based exempt organization as described in Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue code. In compliance with applicable federal and state laws, Grace College and Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs and activities, or in employment.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Notice of Nondiscrimination:

Carrie Yocum, Title IX Coordinator and VP of Administration and Compliance
Grace College and Seminary
McClain 102
200 Seminary Drive
Winona Lake, IN 46590
yocumca@grace.edu
574-372-5100 x6491

Inquiries may also be addressed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100.

Community Lifestyle Pledge

Students agree to show respect for the faith commitment that Grace practices and agree to abide by certain of the institution's community guidelines (avoidance of disrespecting others, sexual misconduct, illegal drugs, gambling, coarse or obscene language, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and such conduct) while on campus or engaged in Grace activities. The student understands that this extends to any advocacy initiatives in which the individual might participate while a Grace student.

Classification of Graduate Students

Full-time Students: Full-time students are those enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program for at least 6 semester hours of credit during a regular semester.

Part-time Students: Part-time students are those enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program for at least 3 hours of credit during a regular semester.

Auditors: Students who desire to hear the lectures in a course without undertaking the coursework for credit may be admitted as auditors to selected courses by making proper application with the Online Admissions Office. Though no credits or grade points are involved, auditors are required to pay the appropriate fees and to meet class attendance requirements. Those who do not meet attendance requirements will receive the "grade" of "W," whether or not they have officially withdrawn.

Auditing is not permitted for some courses. (This policy is at the discretion of the department or professor involved.) For some courses, auditing is permitted only if the student completes the course assignments as specified by the professor. An auditor may enroll for only one semester as a "full-time" auditor.

Program Admission and Completion

Graduates of Grace College's Department of Biblical Studies or other accredited Christian liberal arts schools may qualify to gain advanced standing in the MAMS degree.

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 all schools attended previously are also required for an application to be evaluated.

Application Expiration Date

Applications will expire one year from the date the application was received for admission. If the applicant does not enroll in the program within that time period, they will be required to complete a new application.

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 5010 Theological Seminar 1
- MIN 5020 Theological Seminar 2
- MIN 5100 Bible Study Methods
- MIN 5200 Old Testament Survey
- MIN 5210 New Testament Survey
- MIN 6010 Spiritual Formation
- MIN 6600 Principles & Practice of Prayer

Ministry Concentration Courses: 15 Hours

- MIN 5300 Historical Development of Doctrine
- MIN 5310 Ministry & Cultural Diversity
- MIN 5320 Ministry Leadership
- MIN 5340 Ministry Preaching & Teaching
- MIN 5350 Ministry Philosophy for the Church

Women's Leadership Concentration Courses: 15 Hours

- MIN 5110 Equipping Others for Ministry
- MIN 5360 Women & Scripture
- MIN 5600 Biblical Foundations of Leadership
- MIN 5820 Soul Care & Leadership
- MIN 5340 Ministry Preaching & Teaching or MIN 6200 Counseling Common Problems

Counseling Concentration Courses: 15 Hours

- MIN 5400 Theological Foundations in Counseling
- MIN 5500 Counseling Theories
- MIN 5700 Counseling Methods & Techniques
- MIN 5900 Pre-Marital & Marital Counseling
- MIN 6200 Counseling Common Problems

Camp Administration Concentration Courses: 12 Hours

*Internship through Forest Springs Camp & Conference Center in Westboro, WI.

Tuition Costs and Refunds

For information about tuition costs and refunds please view the [tuition pricing sheet](#).

Grading Procedures

For information about grading policies and procedures, please view the institution's [Academic Policy Manual](#).

Contact

For additional information about admission requirements or course enrollment and completion, please contact the Online Enrollment Counselor, School of Professional and Online Education, Grace College, 200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590 at 888.249.0533 or visit: www.grace.edu/online.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MIN 5010 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 5020 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 5100 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 5200 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 5210 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 5300 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 5310 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.

MIN 5320 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 5340 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. Three hours.

MIN 5350 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.

MIN 6010 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.

MIN 6600 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

Women's Leadership

MIN 5110 Equipping other for ministry:

Equipping others for ministry is a part of our calling from God (Eph. 4:11-13). But how do we work with others so that we reach maturity together? This course will help you see that ministry is not just about doing the ministry yourself, but teaching others to join you in various arenas of ministry. You will learn about God's equipping ministry in your own life, and be challenged to imitate His methods of entrusting others with redemptive work through His Spirit. The class will explore various methods of equipping others, including mentoring, coaching and modeling, and will address the challenges of recruiting, training and retaining volunteers or key staff members.

MIN 5360 Women in Scripture

Students will explore the value of women as disclosed in special revelation, beginning with Genesis and the "imago dei". They will research the backdrop of the ancient world in order to understand the various roles women played in the OT in revealing the heart of God and His plan for redemptive history. They will investigate ways that Jesus elevated the status of women and how NT passages describe the function of women within the Christian community. Using modern theories on the role of women—complementarian and egalitarian—students will seek to define a biblical approach to contemporary questions about the role of women. In addition, students will analyze current culture and make recommendations for how God's Word speaks into the lives of women today.

MIN 5820 Soul Care in Leadership:

This class will examine how to journey with others in the midst of their questions and pain. Instead of trying to fix others in pain, soul care attempts to incarnate the presence of God in the life of another and allow God to use you to be his hands and feet. Part of this process is learning how to listen to the Spirit of God and attend to another in the midst of their journey. The learner will have the opportunity to see and reject patterns of self-talk (based on the flesh) in order to embrace Spirit-led patterns of soul talk. The care of souls is an interpersonal part of ministry leadership that often gets overlooked in our program-driven church context. This class will help to equip ministry leaders in their role as shepherd to the flock entrusted to their care.

MIN 5600 Biblical Foundations of Leadership:

This course looks at the life of Jesus to learn from Him as the Master Teacher, Leader and Discipled. Students will explore Scripture and the lives of other godly men and women to gain a composite picture of leadership that addresses heart issues in the lives of people they will lead. Leadership from a biblical perspective will be countercultural and address issues of pride vs. humility, how we view failure/success and taking initiative in a Spirit-driven process. Students will have the opportunity for hands on integration of theory with practice as they process the course concepts in life with others in a relational context of ministry.

Counseling

MIN 5400 Theological Foundations of Counseling:

This course will examine the theological foundation of counseling specifically as it pertains to Scriptural truths and principles. A biblical theory of personality will be presented which will lead to biblical concepts of counseling. Three hours.

MIN 5500 Counseling Theories

In this course, students will examine today's predominant counseling theories in order to develop their own biblical framework in which they will provide counsel to others. The focus of the course is to help discern God's pathway to proper biblical counseling. Three hours.

MIN 5700 Counseling Methods and Techniques

This course will examine the various skills, methods and techniques used by a Christian or Pastoral Counselor to effectively minister to those being counseled. An aspect of the course is how to use the Bible and prayer in counseling, and direction on when to refer to other professionals. Three hours.

MIN 5900 Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling

This course will examine how to effectively engage in pre-marital counseling to help couples prepare for marriage and to help couples who are struggling in their marriage. Various theories, skills and techniques of marriage counseling will be discussed. Three hours.

MIN 6200 Counseling Common Problems

This course will examine how to counsel people who encounter negative emotions such as anxiety, depression, guilt and fear and help navigate these issues from a biblical perspective. The focus will be on how God can help people deal with the emotional side of their lives by looking at Scripture and allowing God to move them into places of spiritual transformation. Three hours.