

Master of Arts in Religion Program

The Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) at Memphis Theological Seminary is designed for lay persons who want to broaden and deepen their theological understandings as a basis for their ministries in the church and the world, for candidates for the order of deacon in the United Methodist Church, and for persons wishing to prepare for further graduate work in religion. The curriculum equips students with basic theological disciplines and cultivates an appreciation of scholarship, piety and justice.

The M.A.R. degree curriculum seeks to accomplish the following:

- 1) Provide instruction in knowledge and skills that lay a foundation for theological reflection on the practice of ministry.
- 2) Create opportunities for personal and critical reflection on religion within a communal setting.
- 3) Promote an increase in the knowledge and love of God and neighbor.
- 4) Offer opportunities for ecumenical and cross-cultural dialogue.

The M.A.R. degree program offers three tracks: Lay Professional, Deacon Candidacy in the United Methodist Church, and Academic Studies.

A. Lay Professional Track Requirements

6 of the first 9 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 9 of the first 18 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 15 of the first 35 hours taken must be 10000 courses; and 20000 courses may be taken concurrently with 10000 courses. Formation for Ministry classes must be taken the 1st, 2nd and last semesters while at MTS.

Area	Course Title	Concentration		Credit Hours
Introductory (7 courses)	NT	10000	Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament	3
	OT	10000	Introduction to Interpreting the Old Testament	3
	TH	10000	Christian Beliefs	3
	CH	10000	Introduction to Church History	3
	FM	10108	Formation for Ministry (1st Semester)	1
	FM	20108	Formation for Ministry (2nd Semester)	1
	FM	30108	Formation for Ministry (Last Semester)	1
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Additional Courses (2 courses)	EM	20000	Introduction to Educational Ministry	
	WP	20000	Theology of Worship and Preaching	
	PC	20000	Introduction to Pastoral Care	
	ET	20000	Introduction to Christian Ethics	
	CM	20000	Mission of the Church	
				6
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Electives Unrestricted Electives (7 courses)				21
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Seminar (2 courses)	MA	07548	M.A.R. Integrative Seminar	3
	**	00081	M.A.R. Project Implementation (depends on discipline) (may not be taken concurrently)	3
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Totals	18 courses			48

B. Deacon Candidacy Track Requirements

Note: 6 of the first 9 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 9 of the first 18 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 15 of the first 35 hours taken must be 10000 courses; and 20000 courses may be taken concurrently with 10000 courses. Formation for Ministry classes must be taken the 1st, 2nd and last semesters while at MTS.

Area	Course Title	Concentration		Credit Hours
Introductory (7 courses)	NT	10000	Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament	3
	OT	10000	Introduction to Interpreting the Old Testament	3
	TH	10000	Christian Beliefs	3
	CH	10000	Introduction to Church History	3
	FM	10108	Formation for Ministry (1st Semester)	1
	FM	20108	Formation for Ministry (2nd Semester)	1
	FM	30108	Formation for Ministry (Last Semester)	1
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Additional Courses				
(4 courses)	CM	20000	Mission of the Church	3
	WP	20000	Theology of Worship and Preaching	3
	CH	03935	United Methodist History and Doctrine	4
	PM	03212	United Methodist Polity	2
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Electives Unrestricted Electives				
(5 courses)				15
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Seminar (2 courses)	MA	07548	M.A.R. Integrative Seminar+	3
	**	00080	M.A.R. Thesis or (depends on discipline)	
	**	00081	M.A.R. Project Implementation (depends on discipline)	3
(may not be taken concurrently)				
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Totals	18 courses			48

C. Academic Studies Track Requirements

Note: 6 of the first 9 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 9 of the first 18 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 15 of the first 35 hours taken must be 10000 courses; and 20000 courses may be taken concurrently with 10000 courses. Formation for Ministry classes must be taken the 1st, 2nd and last semesters while at MTS.

Area	Course Title	Concentration		Credit Hours
Introductory (7 courses)	NT	10000	Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament	3
	OT	10000	Introduction to Interpreting the Old Testament	3
	TH	10000	Christian Beliefs	3
	CH	10000	Introduction to Church History	3
	FM	10108	Formation for Ministry (1st Semester)	1
	FM	20108	Formation for Ministry (2nd Semester)	1
	FM	30108	Formation for Ministry (Last Semester)	1
Electives Unrestricted Electives (9 courses)				27
Seminar (2 courses)	MA	07548	M.A.R. Integrative Seminar+	3
	**	00080	Thesis **(depends on discipline) (may not be taken concurrently)	3
Totals		19 courses		48