

Statement of Intended Outcomes Master of Theological Studies

The goal of the MTS program is that students attain a survey knowledge of the various theological disciplines, together with more thorough knowledge of a focused area within the theological disciplines, or some specialized interdisciplinary knowledge.

<p>Graduates will be characterized by appropriate levels of achievement in the areas of (1) <i>knowledge</i>, (2) <i>praxis</i> and (3) personal and professional <i>character</i>:</p>	
<p>1. <i>Knowledge</i>: Graduates will have attained</p>	<p>This outcome will be reflected in students who are able to do things such as the following:</p>
<p>1.1 Bible: familiarity with the content of the Old and New Testaments, and with ancient and modern Christian approaches to the interpretation of Scripture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readily identify and locate Biblical passages, persons and geographical sites • write a short descriptive paragraph on major themes • carry out an informed exegesis of a scriptural passage • translate accurately a Biblical text of moderate difficulty with the aid of a lexicon (where required for a student's program)
<p>1.2 Theology: familiarity with the Nicene faith, including its relation to Scripture, its doctrinal articulation and coherence, and its soteriological relevance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offer an articulate, short summary of the gospel in light of Scripture and their own ecclesial tradition • identify significant stages in the development of orthodox Christianity as reflected in the ecumenical creeds
<p>1.3 History of Christianity: familiarity with key eras, episodes, and figures in church history, and with the emergence of the main ecclesial traditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide one-sentence identifications of a reasonable proportion of items in a pertinent list • search out additional information in reputable sources (e.g., dictionaries of Christianity) • locate their own tradition within the history and landscape of the Christian movement, and identify its distinctives • provide fair and sympathetic portrayals of traditions other than their own

<p>1.4 Mission: familiarity with the basis and history of Christian mission in relation both to God's activity in the world and to the social and cultural realities of human life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articulate the nature of Christian mission on the basis of key Biblical themes (creation, covenant, Christ, gospel, kingdom) • provide critical perspective on contemporary Christian mission through a comparison with some pertinent case studies from the past
<p>1.5 Specialized knowledge: more thorough knowledge of a focused area within the theological disciplines, or some specialized interdisciplinary knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embark on a capstone project (summative exercise or thesis)
<p>2. Praxis: Graduates will have developed:</p>	<p>This outcome will be reflected in students who are able to do things such as the following:</p>
<p>2.1 Application of foundational knowledge: capacities to apply foundational knowledge, tools and skills in the processes of theological reasoning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make informed theological judgments on complex issues, with due attention to social and cultural context • engage in a theologically informed case-study analysis and discussion of a specific problem, issue or situation • read texts critically and charitably
<p>2.2 Research and scholarship: competence with the academic skills that are necessary for the application of foundational knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate effectively in both oral and written forms • use library and information resources in order to identify authoritative primary sources and relevant secondary sources • construct logical and persuasive arguments • produce research papers and a capstone project, using standard conventions of style for academic writing
<p>3. Character: Graduates will have demonstrated:</p>	<p>This outcome will be reflected in students who are able to do things such as the following:</p>
<p>3.1 Awareness of limits: an appreciation of the limits of their own knowledge, the breadth of the Christian movement, the complexity of theological discourse and the need for life-long learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide fair and sympathetic portrayal of positions different from their own • exercise charity in intellectual discussion • engage in self-directed learning

<p>3.2 Personal and professional integrity: a recognition of the importance of integrating theological study with personal development (intellectual, emotional, spiritual) and a sense of social responsibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• engage in self-critical reflection on how their MTS studies have fostered intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth• demonstrate ethical and responsible behavior in the classroom, in their research, and in their other educational activities
<p>3.3 Vocation: a readiness to use their theological studies for the benefit of the Church and its mission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reflect on how their MTS studies have shaped directions for current and future ministry