

MDiv: Master of Divinity

Denis Fortin, *Director*

The Master of Divinity program is recommended as the basic training for Adventist ministry by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the North American Division. It is a three-year professional program beginning in the summer or autumn semester of each year. Students can complete the 96-credit program in six semesters with summers free. However, the Seminary schedule is so arranged that MDiv students who have no deficiencies and who have adequate financial support may accelerate their studies by taking six semesters in sequence, including summers, and complete the program in less than three years.

The professional education provided by the MDiv program seeks

- to provide training in biblical, linguistic, historical, theological, philosophical, ethical, missiological, pastoral, and evangelistic fields to meet the professional needs of the Seventh-day Adventist minister,
- to engage all seminary departments in seeking to integrate cognitive and practical preparation for professional ministry,
- to foster spiritual growth in personal, family, and corporate life in formal and informal settings,
- to cultivate a seminary environment conducive to learning in a variety of settings such as colloquia, group discussions, assemblies, the library, preaching practicum, field assignments, and spiritual formation groups,
- to integrate contributions of several departments on major Christian themes basic to Seventh-day Adventist heritage and proclamation,
- to involve seminarians in the practice of ministry through field work,
- to raise awareness of, and sensitivity to, the multicultural characteristics of society through special activities, courses, and fellowship,
- to foster sound methods of study and investigation aimed toward lifelong professional service and growth,
- to promote the development of professional skills requisite for the propagation of Biblical faith and Christian commitment within the Adventist framework.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

All MDiv applicants must meet the Graduate Programs Admission Requirements applicable to all graduate students found on p. 38 and the general seminary requirements on p. 277.

Applicants to the MDiv program must also meet the qualifications listed below:

- hold a baccalaureate degree, usually in theology or religion,
- demonstrate undergraduate work that includes the items specified below in the list of Undergraduate Prerequisites,
- normally hold membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church inasmuch as the MDiv program is specifically designed for SDA ministers and is sponsored and financed by the SDA church,
- represent high moral integrity with a character, lifestyle, and spiritual commitment reflective of the beliefs and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and show promise of usefulness for Adventist ministry through personal maturity and adequate experience in the Church. (Persons of other faiths who are willing to live in harmony with these standards are welcome to apply.),
- submit an autobiographical history and statement of purpose reflecting the applicant's family and religious development,

sense of calling to ministry, experience in church work, and future goals in relationship to the MDiv program. (If married, the spouse of the applicant is also asked to complete a statement in regard to her or his feelings and relationship to the partner's aspirations for future ministry.),

- an interview with a representative of the MDiv program may be required, either by personal contact, telephone, or video,
- complete the 16 Personality Factor Inventory and accompanying questionnaire which are sent to the applicant after the initial application has been received.

Completion of the MDiv program does not in any way or at any time guarantee employment in Adventist ministry or any other church employment.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Summer Course Load. The 12-week summer session is divided into three 4-week sessions and normal course load for any of these sessions may not exceed 5 credits. The total amount of course work during the summer session may not exceed 12 credits.

Workshop Credit Limit and Grading Pattern. Master of Divinity students may apply up to 4 workshop credits appropriate to degree requirements. If workshops are taken during the semester breaks, the credits are counted as part of the class load for either the previous or the following semester.

Workshops are graded S/U. Any deviation from this pattern must be approved by the dean prior to the conclusion of the workshop. Students must register at the Academic Records Office for all workshops for which academic credit is desired.

Independent Study Restrictions. Students in the MDiv program are allowed to register for Independent Study only for a compelling reason such as a schedule conflict or the need to take a subject that is not offered. Normally, Independent Study cannot be used to meet a core requirement. Students must first seek approval from the office of the MDiv director before arranging with a teacher to do Independent Study.

Residency Requirements. On-campus residence is broken if a student fails to enroll for at least one semester within a period of three consecutive semesters. When residence is broken, the student must follow the bulletin in force at the time residency is reestablished. Where 12 semester credits or fewer are lacking, the student may graduate under the bulletin in force at the time of his/her initial entrance.

Re-enrolling in the MDiv Program. Following an absence of two years or more, a student's previous admission status will have lapsed and the student will need to reapply to the program.

Transferring Credits to the MDiv Program. Up to 9 semester credits (earned on a level which corresponds to 500-course numbers of the SDA Theological Seminary) may be transferred from the School of Graduate Studies of Andrews University or from an accredited university provided the courses to be transferred are relevant to the MDiv program and have not been used for a previous degree (in which case only 6 credits may be transferred).

Seventeen credits may be transferred to the MDiv program from an MA in Religion conferred by an accredited SDA institution granting such or similar degrees.

Students who have attended other approved theological seminaries and plan to take an MDiv degree from Andrews University must complete a minimum of 50 semester credits in the Seminary.

At least 30 of these credits must be taken in residence programs.

Transfer credit is granted only for courses in which the grade is B or higher.

Reduced Class Load. MDiv students whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.50 are required to reduce their course load to no more than 12 semester credits. MDiv students whose cumulative GPA remains below 2.50 for a second consecutive semester are required to withdraw from the Seminary.

When an incomplete has not been cleared by the beginning of the next semester, the course load must be reduced as follows:

- One I—no reduction
- Two I's—load reduced by one 2-3 credit course
- Three I's—load reduced by two 2-3 credit courses

With more than three I's, the student must withdraw from the program until the I's are cleared.

Student Assessment. Since the MDiv program prepares individuals for professional and pastoral leadership, periodic assessments are made of the students by the faculty in areas other than academic standing. Areas reviewed are students' spiritual growth, lifestyle reflective of the beliefs and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, social/family relations, and developing potential for ministry. As a result of these assessments, students are affirmed in the MDiv program, advised of needed adjustments, or discontinued from the program.

Graduation. The Seminary follows the University graduation procedures and requirements for the conferral of degrees as outlined in this Bulletin. A special ceremony for graduating seminary students is held during the last chapel period before graduation.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to present a broad range of undergraduate general education represented in such studies as accounting, behavioral sciences (including psychology), communication, education, English, fine arts, health, history, philosophy, sociology, and word-processing skills.

In the area of religion and cognate studies, undergraduate work must include the following minimum requirements. Some of these subjects can be cleared through optional challenge exams (see below and p. 283).

Religion Prerequisites. The following undergraduate prerequisites are required of students before they can enter the Master of Divinity program. All of these prerequisites can be fulfilled at Andrews University and be applied to elective credits in the MDiv curriculum. However, students who have more than 13 credits of prerequisite courses to complete at Andrews University will need to extend their MDiv curriculum accordingly to a maximum total of 111 credits. More details are given below.

Old Testament Introduction and Survey—One course; 2-3 credits
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 Bible Doctrines/Theology—Two courses; 4-6 credits
 General Church History—Two courses; 4-6 credits
 History of the SDA Church—One course; 2-3 credits
 Life and Ministry of Ellen G. White—One course; 2-3 credits
 General or Introduction to Psychology—One course; 2-3 credits
 Pastoral Ministries and Church Policy—One course; 2-3 credits

(Proficiency examination required of all students.)*
 Homiletics/Biblical Preaching—One course; 2-3 credits
 Personal Evangelism—One course; 2-3 credits
 Biblical Greek (Intermediate level proficiency)**
 Biblical Hebrew (Intermediate level proficiency)**

*Pastoral Ministries and Church Policy Proficiency Examination. All students who have completed a course in Pastoral Ministries and Church Policy on the undergraduate level are required to take a Pastoral Ministries and Church Policy proficiency examination and pass with a score of at least 80%. If students fail the exam, they must take the class CHMN545 Pastoral Ministries and Church Policy for 1 credit. Passing the class with a grade of at least C+ fulfills the exam requirement. Students without an undergraduate course in Pastoral Ministries should enroll in the course Pastoral Ministries and Church Policy for 2 credits.

**Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Greek Prerequisites. Hebrew and Greek are required at the Intermediate proficiency level as demonstrated by a qualifying examination rather than a specific number of undergraduate credits.

Students who pass the exam at the intermediate level are allowed to enroll in exegesis courses without further language study. Students who do not qualify are placed in appropriate levels of Hebrew or Greek courses according to their test scores (either Beginning or Intermediate levels). Instruction sheets designed to help students prepare for the qualifying examinations are available from the Old Testament and New Testament departments. Students may also demonstrate proficiency in Intermediate Hebrew and Intermediate Greek by taking the respective courses at Andrews University and earning a grade of at least C+.

Bible Knowledge Entrance Test. All entering students must take the Bible knowledge test and pass with a score of 80%. This test will be administered to all students early in the fall semester. As an alternative, the student can take the course GSEM525. If students fail the test, they must take the course. Passing the course with a grade of at least C+ fulfills the test requirement. If students do not pass the course with a grade of at least C+ they must suspend participation in the MDiv program until they pass the test at its next scheduled administration. Full information on the test including a list of items that must be mastered in order to pass it is available through the Associate Dean's office or on-line at <http://www.andrews.edu/SEM/bket/>.

Deficiencies. Students holding a baccalaureate degree but having no undergraduate preparation in the area of religion and cognate studies need to take the equivalent of the prescribed minimum undergraduate prerequisites listed above. These equivalent courses can either be taken at an accredited college or as part of the MDiv curriculum. Students who opt to fulfill their undergraduate prerequisites at the Seminary must take up to an additional 15 credits (for a maximum total of 111 credits).

Students with many deficiencies should plan to begin their studies at the Seminary during the summer session (May).

Students needing a course in Old Testament Introduction and Survey take OTST500, and, likewise, students who do not have undergraduate exposure to the New Testament take NTST515.

Students who lack two courses in Bible Doctrines or Theology take THST531 and 532. In a similar way, students who lack two courses in General Church History take CHIS501, 502, and 503.

Students needing courses in the History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and in the Life and Ministry of Ellen G. White take CHIS 570 and GSEM532.

Students needing a course in Pastoral Ministries and Church Policy should take the course CHMN545 for 2 credits. Those with an undergraduate course in Pastoral Ministries who fail the qualifying exam should take the course CHMN545 for 1 credit.

Students lacking a course in General/Introduction to Psychology take the course CHMN550 during their first year. A challenge examination is available but is given only once a year (inquire at the Department of Christian Ministry office).

Students needing Homiletics/Biblical Preaching should take CHMN505 during their first year.

Students lacking a course in Personal Evangelism take the course CHMN536 during their first year.

Students needing Biblical language courses should plan to take NTST551 and 552, and OTST551 and 552.

CURRICULUM

The Master of Divinity Curriculum has been designed to meet the various needs of students preparing for pastoral ministry.

Students holding a baccalaureate degree in religion or theology (with none or few undergraduate deficiencies) follow the standard curriculum of 96 credits.

Students holding a baccalaureate degree but having no undergraduate preparation in the area of religion and cognate studies need to extend their curriculum to make up for the prescribed minimum undergraduate prerequisites listed above. However, students who have 13 credits or fewer of needed prerequisites can still complete the MDiv within 96 credits as they may use the elective credits already allowed for in the program. This extended curriculum is of a maximum of 111 credits and requires a minimum of seven semesters.

Program Requirements. MDiv students must meet the following requirements in addition to those required of all graduate students:

- Complete the MDiv curriculum of at least 96 credits. (Students lacking adequate undergraduate preparation may have up to 111 credits to complete.)
- Maintain a GPA of 2.50 or above.
- Meet the qualitative standards of the MDiv program (see the Student Assessment section above for further details).

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

General Seminary **12–14**
GSEM534, 539, 610, 510, and 541.

Students lacking an undergraduate course in the Life and Ministry of Ellen G. White must also take GSEM532 prior to taking GSEM534.

Christian Ministry **29–35**
All MDiv students are required to take a minimum of 29 credits in Christian Ministry.

Required courses

All students take the following courses: CHMN614, 534, 624, 555, 527, 519. In addition, students take one of the following preaching courses: CHMN520, 600, 607, 621, 627, 637, 680.

Colloquia

CHMN 533 (6 times, 0.34 credit each)

Two colloquia are offered at the end of Fall Semester, December 16, 18-20 (Friday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday). Two other colloquia are offered before the spring semester break, March 3-6 (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday). Elective colloquia may also be offered, but may not replace required colloquia.

The required colloquia are:

- Church and Personal Finance
- Church Planting
- Teaching Ministry
- Institutional Ministry and Christian Education
- Urban Ministry
- Health Evangelism

If students choose to take a full course in place of any of the colloquia or if they fulfill the requirements of one colloquium through some other means, they may choose to take an elective colloquium. However, this option may not be applicable to students with deficiencies.

Courses from NADEI

CHMN536 (for students with a deficiency)

CHMN539, 566, 562 (4 credits)

CHMN515 (The student may register for CHMN649 if sufficient small-group experience can be documented to the instructor.)

CHMN563 (Required only of on-campus students)

In the semester in which students take CHMN562, the class load is limited to 12 credits. International (non North American) students are exempt from CHMN562 and 563 except as arranged. Other NADEI courses are required of international students unless the substitution of a course offered by the Department of World Mission is approved by the MDiv director. The 6 credits exempted from CHMN562 and 563 must be taken in either the Christian Ministry or World Mission departments.

Church History **7–11**

Students without deficiencies in Church History take the following courses:

- CHIS674
- One of the following courses: CHIS660, 665 or 688
- Any other course listed under Church History

Students with a deficiency in General Church History take CHIS501, 502, 503 and 674, instead of the above. Students with a deficiency in History of the SDA Church also take CHIS570.

New Testament **10–17**

All students take the following courses:

- NTST509, 510, 525, 543.

Students without an undergraduate course in New Testament studies must also take NTST515. Students must be careful to attend to the language prerequisites for each exegesis course as most courses require that Greek language requirements be met before enrolling in the class.

Old Testament **10–17**

All students take the following courses:

- OTST545, 550.
- One of the following Biblical Archaeology/History courses: OTST510, 514, 604, 614, 635, or NTST615.

Students who lack an undergraduate course in Old Testament Introduction and Survey must take OTST500. Students must be careful to attend to the language prerequisites for each exegesis course as most courses require that Hebrew language requirements be met before enrolling in the class.

Theology and Christian Philosophy **9–11**

All students take the following courses:

- THST541, 542, 610.
 - One ethics course from THST600, 634, 643, 644.
- Students who have not taken an undergraduate ethics course must take THST550.

Students who have an undergraduate deficiency in Theology/Bible Doctrines must take THST531 and 532 instead of THST541 and 542.

World Mission **6**

All students must take the following courses:

- MSSN525 and 535.

General Electives**up to 13**

Students take electives to complete the total of 96 credits required for the MDiv degree. Up to 8 credits in relevant courses offered by other schools of the university on the graduate level may be included in the general electives, including up to 4 appropriate workshop credits.

Students can earn a maximum of 8 more elective credits by formal assessment and increase this number of elective credits to a maximum of 21 credits. Students can request that some predetermined courses in the basic curriculum be waived after the proper formal assessment has been done. Courses that may be waived by assessment are determined by each department including General Seminary courses, and a student can waive by assessment a maximum of 8 credits. If a student waives more than one course within a department, the second elective course must be taken in that department.

TOTAL CREDITS required for the MDiv Degree—96-111**IN-MINISTRY OPTION**

The basic MDiv curriculum is offered through two delivery systems. The first is a standard on-campus residence program as outlined above. The second is designed to give opportunity for students to complete a major portion of the degree while remaining active in pastoral ministry. This new delivery system, which will be introduced in the fall of 2001, is designed for students who (1) have completed an undergraduate degree in religion or theology, (2) are prepared to participate in the basic curriculum, and (3) are employed in pastoral ministry in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Students who elect this in-ministry delivery system will be expected to complete 12 semester credits each calendar year of active ministry and complete a 15-month period of residence on campus. The in-ministry course load will be delivered through a contextualized ministry component, extension courses (some of which will be offered on the Berrien Springs campus) and distributed education courses. Specific information on registration, costs and course schedules for the in-ministry delivery system are available through the ministerial director of the local Seventh-day Adventist conference, the MDiv Director's office and the Seminary's web site (<http://www.andrews.edu/SEM/>).

CHALLENGE EXAMINATIONS

MDiv students who can demonstrate adequate preparation gained through study and/or reading prior to entering the MDiv program may petition to challenge the following courses: CHIS570, CHMN545, CHMN550, GSEM532, GSEM534, and GSEM610.

The respective challenge examination(s) must be taken no later than the beginning of the semester in which the course(s) is (are) offered for the first time in the year the student enrolls and no later than the first week of that semester. Petition(s) for challenge examinations must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the semester in which the course(s) is (are) challenged.

The challenge examination for each course is prepared, administered, and graded by the faculty member(s) teaching the course(s) in the Seminary. Students who have received permission to sit for (a) challenge examination(s) shall take the individual course examination(s) at prescribed times. The passing grade for a challenge examination is B-. Challenge examinations do not earn credit. Students who pass shall receive the corresponding number of elective credits.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Students enrolled in the MDiv program may choose from a number of 16-credit emphases as part of their 96-credit curriculum. More details may be obtained from each department regarding these areas of emphasis. Tuition is charged for courses taken outside of the Seminary. This option may not be available for students who have a number of deficiencies to complete.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

African American Ministry, Chaplaincy, Church Growth and Evangelism, Church Leadership, Pastoral Counseling, Preaching, Youth Ministry.

CHURCH HISTORY

Adventist Studies, General Church History, Reformation.

NEW TESTAMENT

Biblical Languages, New Testament, New Testament Issues.

OLD TESTAMENT

Archaeology and History of Antiquity, Biblical Languages, Jewish Studies, Old Testament.

THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY

Christian Ethics, Historical Theology, Systematic Theology and Christian Philosophy.

WORLD MISSION

Mission Studies.

THESIS OPTION

Students electing the thesis option should plan to take more than six semesters to complete the program.

The thesis counts as 8 of the general elective credits allowed for the MDiv degree. Students should register for 2 or more thesis credits per term for at least two semesters. Therefore, initial registration for a thesis must be no later than two semesters prior to graduation.

Students electing to write an MDiv thesis must apply to the director of the program and must (1) demonstrate superior scholarship over a minimum of two consecutive semesters, normally with a GPA of 3.50 or above; (2) take Research Methods before the thesis is started; and (3) submit a paper of superior quality before permission is granted by the director to begin writing the thesis.

The student is guided in thesis preparation by a three-member committee appointed by the director in consultation with the student and department chair in which the subject of the thesis is chosen. The chair of this committee serves as the thesis adviser.

The format of the thesis must conform strictly to the Andrews University Standards for Written Work. Students are strongly urged to consult the dissertation secretary before formatting and printing a thesis.

At least six weeks before graduation, the committee-approved draft of the thesis should be submitted to the dissertation secretary. After appropriate changes have been made, the corrected copy should be submitted at least four weeks before graduation to the dissertation secretary for approval. Copying on non-acid paper should be completed at least two weeks before graduation. Three copies of the thesis, including a 150-word abstract and an approval sheet, must be submitted to the dissertation secretary. The abstract should contain a short statement of the problem examined, a brief exposition of methods and procedures, and a condensed summary of the findings.

Students obtain a Thesis Completion Form from the dissertation secretary. They must take the form to the Academic Records Office no later than noon on Friday, a week preceding graduation. A fee is charged by the university for binding the three copies of the dissertation, two of which are deposited in the library and one in the department in which the student earns the degree.

Students who do not adhere strictly to the deadlines noted above will have their graduation postponed.

Thesis candidates must pass an oral examination no later than two weeks before graduation. The candidate is expected to demonstrate mastery of the thesis topic.

MA: Pastoral Ministry

This program provides opportunity for mature persons whose ministerial functions make it impossible to study at the Seminary for extended periods of time to engage in a study program leading to a professional degree. This degree is not a substitute for the MDiv degree, the basic training for the Adventist ministry.

The MA in Pastoral Ministry serves primarily both the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking Adventist ministry in North America. While admission to the program is the same for both groups of applicants, the curriculum reflects the emphases for the English and Hispanic ministry tracks (for details, see below).

In areas outside North America, the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry curriculum is designed to reflect indigenous needs. A minimum of 6 credits are offered in courses specifically adapted to meet local conditions and culture. Adjustments are made in admissions policy pertaining to the length of ministerial experience and ordination requirements. Because of regional considerations, the name of this degree in the Inter-American Division territory is MA in Pastoral Theology.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MA in Pastoral Ministry is based on the following requirements in addition to the general admission requirements for all graduate students on p. 38 and the general Seminary admission requirements on p. 277. Applicants should submit the documentation required of all graduate students as listed on p. 38 and provide information requested of seminary applicants on p. 277.

Applicants from North America must be engaged in ministry and offer successful ministerial experience of at least 12 years. Persons who entered the ministry later in life may be granted special consideration; however, applicants must be at least 35 years of age. Male applicants must be ordained to the gospel ministry.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The MA in Pastoral Ministry degree is awarded upon completion (normally within four semesters) of a minimum of 48 credits of formal course work.

1. Course work is offered off campus in North America twice annually in one- and two- week intensives, normally on campuses of other educational institutions. A student prepares assignments before and/or after the intensives as part of the total academic requirements of each course. The annual one- and two-week intensives normally are the academic equivalent of a semester of 8 credits. Intensives are also offered on the Andrews University campus.
2. Each student who takes class work off campus is required to take at least 8 credits on the Andrews University campus to

establish residency, usually during a shortened summer session.

Residency work is not covered by the flat-rate financial plan.

Students should be prepared to cover tuition costs at registration.

3. Course work normally should be completed within 10 years after beginning the program.

A student who fails to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50 is placed on probation. A student who remains on probation for two semesters must withdraw from the program.

Transfer Credits. A maximum of 24 transfer graduate credits, when applicable, may be accepted from approved seminaries or universities upon approval by the dean. Credits approved under the Credit Through Learning in Professional Experience provision (see below) are considered part of the maximum of 24 transfer credits.

A maximum of 8 credits, if applicable, may be transferred from another degree upon approval by the dean.

Credits earned in the Theological Seminary which have not been used for another degree may be applied (if applicable) to the requirements of this professional MA degree. Such credits may not exceed 50 percent of the required number of credits for the program.

GENERAL CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the general professional MA program (non-Hispanic track) is outlined below:

Biblical Studies	10
Old Testament (5)	
OTST520	
Choose one: OTST570; OTST607; GSEM610;	
Any course in OT History and Archaeology.	
New Testament (5)	
One course in Theology of the New Testament	
NTST550	
Theology and Christian Philosophy	8
Two courses in Theology such as GSEM534, THST616,	
617, 618, 619, 627, 628, 630, 639.	
One course in Ethics	
Christian Ministry	10
Courses selected in at least two areas:	
Evangelism and Church Growth	
Leadership and Administration	
Pastoral Care and Counseling	
Preaching and Worship	
Church History	6
CHIS674, an elective	
Mission	2
Electives	<u>12</u>
TOTAL CREDITS for the MA Degree	48

HISPANIC MINISTRY CURRICULUM

Curriculum requirements in the areas of Biblical Studies, Theology, and Mission remain identical with those listed in the General Curriculum above, except that the Spanish language or translation may be used in teaching.

Biblical Studies	10
Theology	8
Christian Ministry	12

Four courses from the following:

CHMN505 (Hispanic), 514 (Hispanic), CHMN527 (Hispanic), 544 (Hispanic), 555 (Hispanic), 615 (Hispanic)

One of the following courses in Culture: CHMN525, 585