

MA: RELIGION

Trevor O'Reggio, *Director*

The Master of Arts in Religion is an academic program involving one year of specialized study beyond the baccalaureate-degree level. The MA in Religion degree is offered with these orientations: (1) Research Orientation which requires a thesis and a modern language relevant to the student's research, usually French or German; and (2) General Academic Orientation, which requires comprehensive examinations. The program requires a minimum of 32 credits. Only 500- and 600-level courses are accepted. The purpose of this program is to provide specialized training within the broader setting of the various disciplines of the Seminary. Students may choose an area of emphasis from those listed below:

- Archaeology and History of Antiquity
- Biblical-Theological Studies (Affiliation and Extension Programs)
- Biblical and Cognate Languages
- Church History
- Intercultural Studies
- Intertestamental (Jewish) Studies
- Jewish and Muslim Faiths
- Mission Studies
- New Testament Studies
- Old Testament Studies
- Theological Studies

The MA in Religion degree with the research orientation is designed to fulfill the needs of students planning further graduate study in biblical studies, religion, or theology. The general academic orientation should fulfill the needs of students who plan to engage in religious or secular endeavors which require a strong background in an emphasis. The MA in Religion is offered both on campus and at affiliation and extension centers outside the United States. When offered at affiliation sites, the program may reflect context-sensitive needs in its curriculum as approved by the seminary faculty.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the MA in Religion program is based on the following requirements in addition to the general admission requirements for all graduate students on p. 44, and the general seminary admission requirements on p. 313.

1. Applicant holds a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent, normally with a major in religion or theology with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or above.
2. Applicant demonstrates language proficiency or shows a plan for acquiring language proficiency as determined by the selected area of emphasis. Proficiency is defined as the reading knowledge of a language at the intermediate level. Examinations may be required to demonstrate proficiency. Biblical language proficiency must be demonstrated before registration for exegesis courses. Modern language deficiencies must be made up before registering for the MA thesis. Language proficiency courses do not apply toward the 32 credits of the MA degree requirements.
3. Complete and return the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire as directed.

Prerequisites

Applicants must provide a transcript showing that they have taken the following courses at the undergraduate level with a GPA of 3.00 or better (on a 4.00 system):

Church History	2
New Testament Studies	2
Old Testament Studies	2
Theological Studies	2
E.G. White Writings	2
Electives in religion*	<u>12</u>
Total prerequisite credits	22

*For the emphasis in Jewish and Muslim Faiths, Church History is to be replaced with one of the following courses: Jewish History, Arabic History, Introduction to Modern Hebrew, or Modern Dialectal Arabic. An elective course must be World Religions.

Language Prerequisites. Students meet the language prerequisites for the various areas of emphasis either by completing the courses listed below or by passing a qualifying examination at the intermediate level.

Archaeology and History of Antiquity	Intermediate Greek or Biblical Hebrew II
Biblical and Cognate Languages	Intermediate Greek and Biblical Hebrew II
Biblical and Theological Studies	Intermediate Greek or Biblical Hebrew II
Church History	Intermediate Greek or Intermediate Latin
Intercultural Studies	Intermediate Arabic
Intertestamental (Jewish) Studies	Intermediate Greek and Biblical Hebrew II
Jewish and Muslim Faiths	Biblical Hebrew II
Mission Studies	Intermediate Greek or Biblical Hebrew II (or a reading knowledge of a modern foreign language)
New Testament Studies*	Intermediate Greek
Old Testament Studies*	Biblical Hebrew II
Theological Studies	Intermediate Greek or Biblical Hebrew II

*Students who choose a major or minor in New Testament Studies must demonstrate proficiency in intermediate Greek either by passing the language-proficiency examination or by taking the Intermediate Greek course at Andrews University and earning a grade of B or above.

*Students who choose a major or minor in Old Testament Studies must demonstrate proficiency in intermediate Hebrew either by passing the language-proficiency examination or by taking the Biblical Hebrew II course at Andrews University and earning a grade of B or above.

Transfer Credits. A maximum of 6 semester hours of credit with a B (3.00) or above may be transferred from an approved seminary or university if applicable to the student's program. Transfer courses must have been completed within the six-year time limit.

Degree Requirements. In addition to the scholarship standards in Graduate Programs Academic Information section of this bulletin, students must fulfill the following requirements for both the research and the general academic orientation options:

- A minimum of 32 semester credits with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above.

- GSEM620 (to be taken the first time the course is offered after enrolling in the program).
- A major area of emphasis with 16 credits.
- A minor area of emphasis with 6-8 credits chosen from a second area of interest.
- Additional language requirements as listed under the two orientation requirements listed below.

Research Orientation Requirements. A foreign language, usually French or German, must be completed by examination or course work (FREN505, GRMN505) in addition to the minimum 32 semester credits. An MA thesis with a total of 6 credits must be completed and defended. It cannot be started until all language requirements are finished. A student who has completed 32 credits towards the Master's degree but has not finished the thesis (after completing 6 thesis credits) must register for GSEM688 (no credit) until the thesis has been approved.

General Academic Orientation Requirements. Students must take an oral or written comprehensive examination after advancement to candidacy. The comprehensive examination may be retaken only once. A student who has completed 32 credits but has not finished all degree requirements must register for GSEM688 (no credit) until all requirements are met.

Advancement to Candidacy. Upon completion of 50 percent of the course work, a student should apply for advancement to candidacy. Forms are available in the office of the director of the MA program. The forms should be completed by the student and approved by the director of the MA program and the dean of the Seminary.

Time Limits. A student must complete the requirements for the MA in Religion degree and graduate within six years of first enrolling in the program regardless of admission classification.

Academic Advisement. The director of the MA in Religion program, in cooperation with department chairs, assigns academic advisers in the student's area of specialization. The selection of the remaining course requirements is monitored by the director.

Certification for Teaching. Students who plan to teach religion in a Seventh-day Adventist academy or in a secondary school are urged to consult as early in the program as possible with the director of the MA program and the university certification officer regarding qualifying for SDA teaching credentials. See pp. 278–279 for more information about recommended methods courses in Bible teaching designed to meet the certification requirements.

Areas of Emphasis

In the event that a required course is not offered during any given term, another course in the same area can be substituted for the required course in consultation with the chair of the department.

Archaeology and History of Antiquity. OTST510, 604, 614. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from GSEM670, NTST615, 635, 680, 684, 689, 690, OTST514, 605, 615, 630, 635, 690.

Biblical and Cognate Languages. OTST625 and one of the following: NTST608, 678, or 696. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from NTST606, 618, 626, 646, 665, 678, 690, 696, OTST545, 550, 565, 612, 626, 639, 654, 658, 659, 660, 680, 685, 690.

Church History. CHIS674 and any three from among 600, 609, 634, 640, 650, 655, 660, 665, 680. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits may include any other CHIS offerings, or GSEM678, or up to two courses from among THST624, 625, 628, MSSN676.

Intercultural Studies. This emphasis requires 46 semester credits plus Arabic language proficiency at the intermediate level. Classes required include MSSN 610, 650, 615, 635 for 6 credits, 660, 652 for 16 credits, 653 for 6 credits, GSEM 620, and GSEM 697 for 5 credits.

Intertestamental (Jewish) Studies. NTST525, 635, 684 or 689. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from NTST615, 618, 626, 680, 690, 696, OTST614, 625, 626, 627, 654, 659, 690.

Jewish and Muslim Faiths. OTST627. A course is to be chosen from each of the following groups: Apologetics/comparative religion—MSSN530, 650, 660, or CHMN587; History—ANTH478, CHIS630, or HIST450; Language/literature—OTST626, 654, 658, or NTST626; Theology/Ethics—HIST450, OTST620, or THST644.

Mission Studies. MSSN610 or 676. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from MSSN.

New Testament Studies. An advanced course in language chosen from among NTST608, 678, or 696; a course in New Testament theology; a course in New Testament exegesis (in addition to NTST678 if that course is taken to satisfy the language requirement); a course in New Testament backgrounds to be selected from among NTST615, 635, 654, 680, 684, 689. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from NTST courses or GSEM530, 670.

Old Testament Studies. OTST625; two courses in Exegesis; a course in Archaeology and History of Antiquity. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from OTST courses or GSEM670 or 530.

Theological Studies. Regardless of which sub-section of theological studies is selected for emphasis—Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, or Philosophy and Ethics—the following courses are required: THST550, 619, and 624 or 628. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from THST courses or GSEM534 or 530.

Electives. A student may select courses approved for academic graduate degrees provided there is a correlation with the student's chosen area of study.

Programs Offered at Affiliation and Extension Sites

Depending on the availability of adequate research library facilities and qualified teaching staff, an affiliated school may be authorized by the seminary faculty to offer some or all of the areas of emphasis listed above with the research orientation or the general academic orientation. Contact the director of the MA program for details on the Affiliation and Extension Programs.

Biblical-Theological Studies. This area of emphasis is available only with the general academic orientation at Affiliation and Extension Centers. In addition to the degree requirements outlined above, the following are required: two NTST courses, two OTST

courses, two THST courses, a course from either CHIS or MSSN. Remaining courses to complete the 16 credits must be chosen from any of the above disciplines.

An MA Thesis in lieu of Comprehensive Exams is possible with authorization of the Director of the MA in Religion Program.

Adventist Ministry Minor. A minor in Adventist Ministry is available at Affiliation and Extension centers only. Eight credits may be selected from appropriate CHMN courses.

MTH: MASTER OF THEOLOGY

Roy E. Gane, *Director*

The Master of Theology is an academic degree that provides the opportunity for full-time specialized study beyond the Master of Divinity degree. The MTh degree requires a minimum of 32 credits of 500-, 600-, and 800-level courses. The purpose of the MTh degree is to provide specialized training in a major area of study with a cognate area closely related to the major area of emphasis. MTh students are advised by the chair of the department, or his/her appointee, and the director of the MTh Program. The MTh degree is offered in the following areas of emphasis with the required language noted:

Christian Ministry: Greek or Hebrew*

Church History: Greek or Hebrew*

New Testament: Greek

Old Testament: Hebrew

Theology and Christian Philosophy: Greek or Hebrew*

World Mission: Greek or Hebrew*

*If Latin or another ancient language is substituted for Greek or Hebrew, the student must have taken Greek and Hebrew at the MDiv level.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the MTh program is recommended to the program director by the department offering the applicant's desired area of emphasis. To be eligible for admission the student must hold a Master of Divinity degree (or its equivalent) from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary or another approved seminary or university with a final grade point average above 3.00 (on a 4.00 system), provide evidence of ability to engage in academic postgraduate study by supplying an acceptable research paper in the area in which further work is to be pursued, and demonstrate language proficiency in the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Languages.** Applicants to the MTh degree program must demonstrate advanced-level competence in either Greek or Hebrew as noted in the table above. The required competence may be demonstrated either by examination or by passing an advanced-level course in the chosen language with a grade of B or better.
- 2. Modern Languages.** Applicants to the MTh degree program must demonstrate (either by examination or by class work—FREN505 or GRMN505) a reading ability in either French or German (unless the language is the student's native and regularly used language).

Any language substitutions must be warranted by the student's program. Such substitutions require the approval of both the department chair in the area of emphasis and the MTh Program Director.

Students should complete the language prerequisites before beginning the program. If the prerequisites are not completed before the beginning of the second semester, the student is not permitted to continue his/her work in the program.

Applicants must also complete and return the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire as directed.

Admission Procedure. Applicants must submit those items specified in the Graduate Programs Admission section of this bulletin on p. 44, and the general Seminary admission requirements on p. 313. In addition, they should submit transcripts of MDiv course work.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the scholarship standards in the Graduate Programs Academic Information section of this bulletin (p. 48), students must fulfill the following requirements for the MTh degree program:

- Complete a minimum of 32 credits (including 8 credits for thesis but not including language prerequisites) with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above.
- Take GSEM620 (to be done the first time the course is offered after enrollment in the program if the student has not previously taken this course or its equivalent).
- Select a major area of emphasis from among those listed above and complete 16 credits in that area.
- Select a cognate area from those listed above and complete 6–8 credits in this area which supports the area of emphasis.
- Take sufficient electives, if needed, to complete the 32-credit program.
- Take a 5- to 8-hour written comprehensive examination either toward the end of the student's final semester of course work or during the semester immediately following completion of course work. Normally, this examination is prepared by two faculty members from the department offering the area of emphasis (two sections totaling 75% of the examination) and a faculty member from the department offering the cognate area (one section constituting 25% of the examination). These examiners are appointed by the emphasis-area department; notification of the appointment is sent to the Program Director.
- Complete a 8-credit thesis.

If the student fails to pass the comprehensive examination, he/she is allowed to rewrite the section or sections failed (with new questions) after adequate time for preparation as determined by the chair of the department offering the major area of emphasis in consultation with the examiners. A failed examination may be retaken once. If the student fails a second time, he/she is asked to withdraw from the program.

A report of the examination results (and of any retake results) is sent by the department chair in the major area of emphasis to the MTh Program Director who notifies the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies of these results.

Thesis Requirements. All students seeking an MTh degree must

- Complete a 8-credit thesis. The program director, upon recommendation of the department chair in the student's major area of emphasis, appoints an MTh thesis committee consisting of two faculty members, normally from the department in the area of emphasis, to guide the student's preparation of a thesis. One of the two committee members is designated as the student's faculty adviser.
- Give evidence in the preparation of the thesis that he/she is capable of independent research using adequate sources. The thesis should demonstrate the student's skill and maturity of judgment in the discovery, organization, and evaluation of