

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Luther Rice offers six graduate programs of study: The Master of Arts in Apologetics, the Master of Arts in Christian Studies, the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling, the Master of Arts in Leadership, the Master of Arts in Ministry, and the Master of Divinity. These 36-hour Master's degrees are designed to equip students in a limited field of study based on the students' interests or needs. All of the degrees may be earned entirely online or by a combination of both online and on-campus classes.

Students enrolling in a graduate degree program will experience a different kind of educational approach than what is typically found in an undergraduate program. Undergraduate programs provide a broad foundation of general knowledge. Although no particular undergraduate major is required for entrance into a graduate program, graduate studies build upon the undergraduate foundation by providing a higher level of knowledge, understanding, skills, and application. Such education is developed by challenging the student's intellectual and emotional capabilities in analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and judgment.

These Master of Arts programs are limited in their development of students preparing for ministry as a pastor. Pastoral candidates are encouraged to enroll in the Master of Divinity program. Those who are considering pastoral ministry may benefit from earning one of these specialized degrees prior to entry into the M.Div. Transfer of the credits is possible, subject to the limitations for the program of study. The Master of Divinity degree is designed to provide a broad base of knowledge to fit the needs of students preparing for a lifetime of ministry. The M.Div. may be earned entirely online or by a combination of both online and on-campus classes.



A graduate receiving his diploma during commencement ceremonies, held annually at First Baptist Church, Conyers, Georgia.

Master of Arts in Apologetics

The purpose of the Master of Arts in Apologetics degree (MAA) is to equip students with knowledge in issues related to the rational and biblical defense of the truth of the Christian faith.

Apologetics is an interdisciplinary field of study that engages biblical studies, philosophy, and theology in the pursuit of defending the veracity of the Christian faith. Students enrolled in the program will become familiar with the essentials from these disciplines necessary for proclaiming and defending the historic doctrines of Christianity.

The MAA program faculty is committed to cutting-edge and biblically-grounded teaching that combines theoretical and practical learning through accessible, student-centered coursework. The program of study promotes excellence in scholarship and equips graduates academically and professionally to advance discourse in apologetics through research, teaching, and service. Graduates are prepared for a variety of careers including church ministries, college ministries, missions, as well as teaching or research appointments in academic settings. The degree includes an apologetic capstone which serves as the culminating academic, intellectual, and ministerial experience for the student.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Apologetics will be able to:

- Interpret the Bible in light of its historical-grammatical context.
- Relate the Church's theological heritage to current apologetical issues.
- Articulate a rational and biblical case for the truth of Christianity.
- Articulate a defense to major objections to Christianity.

Master of Arts in Apologetics
36 hours

Sequence of Coursework

First Year

Semester 1

BI 5201—Introduction to Biblical Interpretation

AP 5901—Foundations of Apologetics

AP 5904—Apologetic Methods

Semester 2

AP 5905—Biblical Apologetics

AP 5906—Theological Apologetics

TH 6301—Systematic Theology I

Second Year

Semester 1

TH 6302—Systematic Theology II

AP 6907—Apologetics and Miracles

AP 6908—Apologetics and the Problem of Evil

Semester 2

TH 6303—Systematic Theology III

AP 6909—Apologetics and Worldviews

AP 6911—Apologetics Capstone

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling

The purpose of the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling (MABC) program is to equip students to serve as counselors in local churches and other ministry settings.

The MABC program is grounded in Scripture and the application of practical ministry skills to a variety of settings. Students engaged in this program will be equipped with the necessary skills to assist those in need of Christ-centered counseling and/or pastoral care. The program features an evaluation of the most commonly accepted theories of counseling and principles of psychology from a biblical worldview perspective.

The course of study, while not designed to equip students with the required coursework for state licensure, will prepare students to serve as non-licensed counselors in a variety of contexts. Graduates are equipped for service as pastoral counselors, non-licensed community counselors, chaplains, and an assortment of church staff positions.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MA in Biblical Counseling will be able to:

- Articulate a biblical philosophy of counseling.
- Communicate biblical and theological truths through counseling.
- Exemplify empathetic pastoral care or referral.
- Convey principles of ethically and legally informed counseling practices.
- Employ interpersonal skills in counseling.

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling
36 hours

Sequence of Coursework

First Year

Semester 1

OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament
CO 5701—Introduction to Counseling Theories
CO 5702—Foundations in Counseling

Semester 2

NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament
BI 5201—Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
CO 5703—Helping Skills

Second Year

Semester 1

TH 5300—Applied Theology for Spiritual Development
CO 5704—Marriage and Family Counseling
CO 6705—Issues, Ethics, and Legal Concerns for Counselors

Semester 2

CO 6706—Crisis Counseling
CO 6707—Methodology in Counseling
CO 6708—Counseling Practicum

Master of Arts in Christian Studies

The Master of Arts in Christian Studies equips students to interpret Scripture in its historical context and to discern its theological application. The knowledge of God through his word is the essential foundation for all faithful Christian ministry. By focusing exclusively on developing skills in accurate biblical interpretation and sound theological reflection, the MACS curriculum grounds students in critical disciplines for informed ministry application. As preparation for further study, all MACS credits can be applied toward the Master of Divinity degree.

Graduates of this program will be prepared to serve the Church in a variety of contexts such as missions, pastoral support staff, Christian education, writing, and lay ministry.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MA in Christian Studies will be able to:

- Interpret the Bible in light of its historical-grammatical context.
- Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology.
- Communicate biblical and theological truths in writing.

Master of Arts in Christian Studies
36 hours

Sequence of Coursework

First Year

Semester 1

OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament
BI 5201—Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
OT—[Select an OT Book Course]

Semester 2

NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament
TH 6301—Systematic Theology I
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]

Second Year

Semester 1

TH 6302—Systematic Theology II
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]
OT—[Select an OT Book Course]

Semester 2

TH 6303—Systematic Theology III
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]

Master of Arts in Leadership

The Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL) equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively address the most important dynamic in any organization, the relational challenges of working with others within various organizational contexts.

The MAL provides a curriculum that combines the most current theoretical thinking with biblically-grounded teaching and practical application. Students will learn key leadership concepts and skills such as team development, coaching and mentoring, assessing organizations, working within organizational cultures, and conflict resolution.

The degree promotes excellence in academics and provides graduates with the skills to influence those around them through research, writing, teaching, and service. Graduates will attain a greater capacity to work in and with churches and other organizations in order to advance professional and personal goals.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MA in Leadership will be able to:

- Employ research methods for organizational analysis and problem solving.
- Articulate a biblical philosophy of leading and following consistent with their vocation.
- Apply Christian leader and follower principles.
- Utilize leadership theories to diagnose and/or design organizations.

Master of Arts in Leadership
36 hours

Sequence of Coursework

First Year

Semester 1

LD 5801—Theories of Organizational Leadership

LD 5802—Organizational Communication

LD 5803—Foundations of Leadership

Semester 2

LD 5804—Organizational Culture

LD 5805—Leadership Development

LD 5806—Assessing Organizations

Second Year

Semester 1

LD 6807—Organizational Strategic Planning

LD 6808—Conflict Resolution for Organizational Leaders

LD 6809—Leadership Team Development

Semester 2

LD 6810—Leadership Coaching and Mentoring

LD 6811—Leading in Global Contexts

LD 6812—Leadership Practicum

Master of Arts in Ministry*

The Master of Arts in Ministry* (MAM) equips students with a wide-ranging knowledge of biblical and theological studies along with exposure to a variety of church-related ministries. Persons serving in a role as a senior pastor or in support role are provided with practical skills on how to function in a local church or support ministry role. This degree program provides a foundational study to the more extensive M.Div. program.

Program Learning Outcomes

All graduates of the Master of Arts in Ministry program will be prepared to:

- Interpret the Bible in light of its historical-grammatical context.
- Utilize the Church's theological heritage as an important resource in their personal spiritual development and ministry.
- Evaluate ministries in light of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.
- Lead in developing, designing, and implementing ministry programs.
- Communicate biblical and theological truths through preaching, teaching, writing, or such other ways as may be appropriate.

* This degree is titled Master of Ministry in North Carolina.

Master of Arts in Ministry
36 hours

Sequence of Coursework

First Year

Semester 1

OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament

BI 5201—Introduction to Biblical Interpretation

TH 5300—Applied Theology for Spiritual Development

Semester 2

NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament

TH 6301—Systematic Theology I

EV 7401—Personal and Church Evangelism

Second Year

Semester 1

TH 6302—Systematic Theology II

BE 7404—Preparing an Expository Message

CM 7402—The Work of Ministry

Semester 2

TH 6303—Systematic Theology III

BE 7405—Delivering an Expository Message

CM 7406—Church Administration

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree is designed to provide a broad base of knowledge to fit the needs of students preparing for a lifetime of ministry. The curriculum is representative of those areas considered essential for effective Christian service in a range of contexts. These areas include studies in Bible, Church History, Theology, Preaching, Pastoral Ministry, Counseling, and Missions. Luther Rice College and Seminary offers a 81 credit-hour M.Div. and an 90 credit-hour M.Div., both of which offer an option for biblical languages.

Program Options

Students may choose to complete the M.Div. with open electives or with biblical languages. The open electives track allows students to customize their course of study with twenty-four hours of electives which may be drawn from courses offered for the Master of Arts programs in Apologetics, Biblical Counseling, and Leadership. Students also have the option to follow a plan that includes the biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew. The track with biblical languages provides additional preparation needed for those who will serve in contexts where they regularly proclaim or teach the Bible. Students wishing to continue to post-graduate study may also need the biblical languages as pre-requisites for their chosen fields of research. Students who wish to enroll in the Biblical Languages Track must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Course Sequencing

As a general rule, students in their first year of study should complete 5000 level courses, second year students 6000 level courses, and third year students 7000 courses. Courses at the 6000 level assume skills and knowledge acquired from 5000 level courses. Courses at the 7000 level assume preparation at both 5000 and 6000 levels.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Master of Divinity program will be prepared to:

- Interpret the Bible in light of its historical-grammatical context.
- Utilize the Church's historical and theological heritage as an important resource in their personal spiritual development and ministry.
- Articulate a biblical philosophy of ministry consistent with their vocation.
- Communicate biblical and theological truths through preaching, teaching, writing, or in such other ways as may be appropriate.
- Evaluate and develop ministries in light of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.
- Accurately and empathetically evaluate people and their personal circumstances and provide appropriate pastoral care or referral.
- Lead in developing goals and designing and implementing ministry.
- Serve with Christian character in their personal and professional lives.

**Master of Divinity
Open Elective Track
81 hours**

Biblical Studies (27 hours)

BI 5201-Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
OT 5200-Introduction to the Old Testament
NT 5200-Introduction to the New Testament
OT 6300-Intertestamental History and Literature
OT-[Select an OT Book Course]
OT-[Select an OT Book Course]
NT 6300-New Testament Theology
NT-[Select an NT Book Course]
NT-[Select and NT Book Course]

Historical Studies (6 hours)

HI 5311-Church History I
HI 5312-Church History II

Theological Studies (12 hours)

TH 5300-Applied Theology for Spiritual Development
TH 6301-Systematic Theology I
TH 6302-Systematic Theology II
TH 6303-Systematic Theology III

Ministerial Studies (30 hours)

AP 5901-Foundations of Apologetics
BE 7404-Preparing an Expository Message
BE 7405-Delivering an Expository Message
CO 5704-Marriage and Family Counseling
CM 7402-Work of Ministry
CM 7407-Ministry Practicum
EV 7401-Personal & Church Evangelism
LD 5803-Foundations of Leadership
MI 7403-Christian Missions
PH 5905-Foundations of Healthcare Ethics

Open Electives (6 hours*)

*All Master's level courses are available as electives with the exception of MA capstone courses (i.e., practica).

Master of Divinity
Biblical Languages Track
81 hours

Biblical Studies (33 hours)

BI 5201-Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
OT 5200-Introduction to the Old Testament
NT 5200-Introduction to the New Testament
GR 5201-New Testament Greek Grammar I
GR 5202-New Testament Greek Grammar II
GR 6203-Intermediate New Testament Greek
GR 6204-New Testament Greek Exegesis
HE 5201-Old Testament Hebrew Grammar I
HE 5202-Old Testament Hebrew Grammar II
HE 6203-Intermediate Old Testament Hebrew
HE 6204-Old Testament Hebrew Exegesis

Historical Studies (6 hours)

HI 5311-Church History I
HI 5312-Church History II

Theological Studies (12 hours)

TH 5300-Applied Theology for Spiritual Development
TH 6301-Systematic Theology I
TH 6302-Systematic Theology II
TH 6303-Systematic Theology III

Ministerial Studies (30 hours)

AP 5901-Foundations of Apologetics
BE 7404-Preparing an Expository Message
BE 7405-Delivering an Expository Message
CO 5704-Marriage and Family Counseling
CM 7402-Work of Ministry
CM 7407-Ministry Practicum
EV 7401-Personal & Church Evangelism
LD 5803-Foundations of Leadership
MI 7403-Christian Missions
PH 5905-Foundations of Healthcare Ethics

**Master of Divinity
Open Elective Track
90 hours**

Biblical Studies (21 hours)

BI 5201—Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament
NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament
OT—[Select an OT Book Course]
OT—[Select an OT Book Course]
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]

Historical Studies (6 hours)

HI 5311—Church History I
HI 5312—Church History II

Theological Studies (12 hours)

TH 5300—Applied Theology for Spiritual Development
TH 6301—Systematic I
TH 6302—Systematic II
TH 6303—Systematic III

Ministerial Studies (27 hours)

EV 7401—Personal and Church Evangelism
CM 7402—The Work of Ministry
CO 5702—Foundations of Counseling
MI 7403—Christian Missions
CO 5704—Marriage and Family Counseling
BE 7404—Preparing an Expository Message
BE 7405—Delivering an Expository Message
CM 7406—Church Administration
CM 7407—Ministry Practicum

Open Electives (24 hours*)

* All Master's level courses are available as electives with the exception of MA capstone courses (i.e., practica).

Master of Divinity
Biblical Language Track
90 hours

Biblical Studies (21 hours)

BI 5201—Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament
NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament
OT—[Select an OT Book Course]
OT—[Select an OT Book Course]
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]
NT—[Select a NT Book Course]

Historical Studies (6 hours)

HI 5311—Church History I
HI 5312—Church History II

Theological Studies (12 hours)

TH 5300—Applied Theology for Spiritual Development
TH 6301—Systematic I
TH 6302—Systematic II
TH 6303—Systematic III

Ministerial Studies (27 hours)

EV 7401—Personal and Church Evangelism
CM 7402—The Work of Ministry
CO 5702—Foundations of Counseling
MI 7403—Christian Missions
CO 5704—Marriage and Family Counseling
BE 7404—Preparing an Expository Message
BE 7405—Delivering an Expository Message
CM 7406—Church Administration
CM 7407—Ministry Practicum

Biblical Languages (24 hours)

GR 5201—New Testament Greek Grammar I
GR 5202—New Testament Greek Grammar II
GR 6203—Intermediate New Testament Greek
GR 6204—New Testament Greek Exegesis

HE 5201—Old Testament Hebrew Grammar I
HE 5202—Old Testament Hebrew Grammar II
HE 6203—Intermediate Old Testament Hebrew
HE 6204—Old Testament Hebrew Exegesis