

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Luther Rice offers six graduate programs of study: The Master of Arts in Apologetics, the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling, the Master of Arts in Christian Studies, 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, theology, and historical 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 Leadership

The Master of Arts in Christian Leadership program provides students with an understanding of biblical interpretation and application through the lens of ministry leadership. This is accomplished through a foundational study of biblical and theological principles with an added emphases on practical leadership principles that are important for the ministry context such as strategic planning, leadership development, and communication and conflict resolution. Students are equipped with practical skills to pursue careers in church and para-church ministry integrating a Christian worldview into leadership practices.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Interpret and apply the Bible for the purpose of Christian growth and ministry
- Understand basic theology through the lens of ministry leadership
- Apply Christian leadership principles in a ministry context
- Articulate a philosophy of leadership consistent with a biblical framework

Master of Arts in Christian Leadership
36 hours

Sequence of Coursework

First Year

Semester 1

OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament

NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament

BI 5201—Introduction to Biblical Interpretation

Semester 2

TH 6301—Systematic Theology I

TH 6302—Systematic Theology II

TH 5300—Spiritual Formation

Second Year

Semester 1

LD 5801—Theories of Organizational Leadership

LD 5805—Leadership Development

LD 5808—Organizational Culture

Semester 2

LD 5812—Organizational Communication and Conflict Resolution

LD 6807—Organizational Strategic Planning

LD 6814—Leadership Intervention 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 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 Science in Organizational Leadership

The Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program provides students with a comprehensive understanding of leadership and organization studies through topics such as organizational theory and behavior, organizational research methods, organizational culture, and organizational change. Students are equipped with practical skills to pursue careers in various industries while integrating a Christian worldview into leadership practices. Students will develop leadership, organizational systems competency, and action research skills applicable to today's organizational environment.

Program Learning Outcomes

All graduates of the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program will be prepared to:

- Employ research methods for organizational analysis and problem solving
- Articulate a philosophy of leadership consistent with a biblical framework
- Apply leadership principles from a Christian worldview perspective
- Utilize leader theories and follower theories to diagnose and design organizations

Master of Science in Organizational Leadership
36 hours

Sequence of Coursework

First Year

Semester 1

- LD 5801—Theories of Organizational Leadership
- LD 5805—Leadership Development
- LD 5808—Organizational Culture

Semester 2

- LD 5807—Organizational Theory and Behavior
- LD 5809—Organizational Change
- LD 5811—Organizational Research Methods

Second Year

Semester 1

- LD 5812—Organizational Communication and Conflict Resolution
- LD 6807—Organizational Strategic Planning
- LD 6809—Organizational Consulting

Semester 2

- LD 6810—Leadership Coaching and Mentoring
- LD 6813—Leadership Research Practicum
- LD 6814—Leadership Intervention Practicum

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

Bachelor of Arts in Religion to Master of Divinity: Advanced Track

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion to Master of Divinity-Advanced Track is an enrollment path that allows exceptional students to complete the Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Master of Divinity in 156 credit hours as opposed to the 201 credit hours required taking the programs independently. Luther Rice faculty have identified 28 undergraduate-level courses (84 credit hours) and 28 graduate-level courses (84 credit hours) whose CLOs are equivalent in subject matter albeit distinct in academic rigor. To the exceptional undergraduate student who is prepared for the rigor of graduate-level study, the Bachelor of Arts in Religion to Master of Divinity-Advanced Track offers the opportunity to complete Master of Divinity courses while enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Religion program. Access to the Advanced Track is limited to proven exceptional students, to preserve the integrity of both the Bachelor of Arts in Religion and the Master of Divinity.

Program Learning Outcomes

General Education Learning Outcomes

Upon completing an undergraduate program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a proposition clearly and persuasively in written and oral form.
- Demonstrate effective critical thinking skills through the presentation, interpretation, and evaluation of ideas.
- Evaluate the role of the humanities in the human experience.
- Apply scientific methods of inquiry to explain natural phenomena and/or analyze mathematical principles and techniques to solve applied problems.
- Analyze the behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

Bachelor of Arts in Religion Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing an undergraduate program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the Bible, interpret Scripture's original meaning, and apply Scripture to contemporary situations.
- Examine Christian theology and history with the purpose of ministry application.
- Articulate a Christian worldview and discuss its implications to daily life.
- Apply foundational skills for ministry and service in a church and community.

Master of Divinity Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing a Master of Divinity, students will be able 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.

Admissions Requirements

Students interested in pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Religion to Master of Divinity – Advanced Track must first apply to the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree. Applicants must meet the academic prerequisites listed in the admissions section of the catalog.

Accreditation standards require students be deemed “exceptional” to be accepted into an Advanced Track program. Exceptional student must take 30 undergraduate hours prior to being admitted to the BAR/MDIV Advanced Track and must earn a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.50. Applicants with an undergraduate grade point average between 3.25 and 3.50 may request a review by the Master of Divinity Program Coordinator. The exceptional student must have recommendation from an undergraduate professor pertaining to academic aptitude and behavior. The exceptional student must also submit a writing sample for evaluation by the Master of Divinity Program Coordinator.

Bachelor of Arts in Religion to Master of Divinity: Advanced Track
156 hours

General Education (36 hours)

Area A: Written Communication

EN 1101—English Composition I

EN 1102—English Composition II

Area B: Communication/Critical Thinking

EN 2103—Public Speech

PH 1900—Philosophy and Critical Thinking

Area C: Humanities/Fine Arts (Pick three of the following courses):

EN 2104—World Literature

EN 2105—British Literature

EN 2106—American Literature

PH 1901—Principles of Philosophy

PH 2901—Contemporary Moral Philosophy

Area D: Natural Science/Mathematics (Pick one of the following courses):

SC 1501—Physical Science

MA 1600—College Algebra

MA 1601—Statistics

Area E: Social/Behavioral Science (Pick four of the following courses):

EC 2101—Principles of Macroeconomics

EN 2102—Principles of Microeconomics

HI 1101—World Civilizations I

HI 1102—World Civilizations II

HI 2101—United States History I

HI 2102—United States History II

PS 1101—American Government

PY 2703—Principles of Psychology

Ministry Preparation (9 hours)

MP 1401—Preparing for Christian Ministry

EV 3402—Personal Evangelism (Substituted with EV 7401-Personal and Church Evangelism)

MP 4403—Christian Ministry Practicum

Major in Biblical Studies (42 hours)

BI 1200—Survey of Biblical Interpretation (Substitute with BI 5201-Introduction to Biblical Interpretation)

NT 1200—Survey of the New Testament (Substitute with NT 5200-Introduction to the New Testament)

OT 1200—Survey of the Old Testament (Substitute with OT 5200-Introduction to the Old Testament)

HI 2300—Survey of Church History (Substitute with HI 5311-Church History I)

TH 3301—Survey of Theology I (Substitute with TH 6301-Systematic Theology I)

TH 3302—Survey of Theology II (Substitute with TH 6302-Systematic Theology II)

NT 2201—Life of Christ

NT 2205—Acts of the Apostles

NT 3206—Romans

NT 4227—Revelation

OT 2201—Genesis

OT 2206—Joshua/Judges

OT 3228—Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi)

OT 4214—Chronicles

Additional Required Courses (33 hours)

CO 2700—Principles of Counseling

PM 3401—Foundations of Pastoral Ministry

AP 5901—Foundations of Apologetics

OT 6218—Job

OT 6219—Psalms

OT 6223—Isaiah

OT 6227—Daniel

NT 6202—Gospel of Mark

NT 6204—Gospel of John

NT 6207—1 Corinthians

NT 6300—New Testament Theology

Remaining Master of Divinity Courses (36 hours)

OT 6300—Intertestamental History and Literature

BE 7404—Preparing an Expository Message

BE 7405—Delivering an Expository Message

MI 7403—Christian Missions

CM 7402—The Work of Ministry

CM 7407—Ministry Practicum

CO 5704—Marriage and Family Counseling

LD 5803—Foundations of Leadership

PH 5905—Foundations of Healthcare Ethics

TH 5300—Applied Theology for Spiritual Development

TH 6303—Systematic Theology III

HI 5312—Church History II