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 two 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
- 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. 39, and the general seminary admission requirements on p. 287.

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. Qualifying 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.

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* 12

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.