

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. 39 and the general Seminary admission requirements on p. 287. Applicants should submit the documentation required of all graduate students as listed on p. 39 and provide information requested of seminary applicants on p. 287.

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 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 8-9 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 8-9 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 the equivalent of two years (maximum of 18 credits) 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; GSEM530;	
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, THST530,	
539, 616, 618, 619, 627, 628, 630.	
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

Biblical Studies	12
Old Testament (6)	
One course in Theology	
One course in Exegesis	
New Testament (6)	
One course in Theology	
One course in Exegesis	
Theology	9
Two courses in Theology	
One course in Ethics	
Christian Ministry	12
Four courses such as:	
CHMN505 (Hispanic), 514 (Hispanic), CHMN527 (Hispanic),	
544 (Hispanic), 555 (Hispanic), 615 (Hispanic)	
One of the following courses in Culture: CHMN525, 585	
Church History	6
CHIS567, 674	
Mission	3
Electives	<u>6</u>
TOTAL CREDITS for the MA Degree	48

NON-NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION CURRICULUM

Biblical Studies	12
Old Testament (6)	
OTST520 (Theology)	
One course in OTST Exegesis	
One additional course in OTST	
New Testament (6)	
One course in NTST Exegesis	
Two additional courses in NTST	
Theology and Christian Philosophy	8
One course in Ethics	
Three additional courses in THST	

Christian Ministry	12
Courses selected in at least two areas:	
Evangelism and Church Growth	
Leadership and Administration	
Pastoral Care and Counseling	
Preaching and Worship	
Church History	4
CHIS674	
One elective	
Mission	2
Electives	<u>10</u>
TOTAL CREDITS for the MA Degree	48

CREDIT THROUGH LEARNING IN PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE*

Students may be eligible to receive up to 6 credits for professional experience when approved by the dean, using the following criteria:

- The applicant must have completed at least 16 credits toward the MA degree with a minimum GPA of 2.50 (on a 4.00 system).
 - The applicant must provide two written recommendations from faculty members of the Seminary with whom he/she has studied.
 - The applicant must submit a Professional Experience Portfolio, including (1) a curriculum vita, (2) a description of ministerial experiences, (3) a reflection-learning paper in which the applicant analyzes his/her professional skills and ministries and demonstrates how learning based on the reflection-reaction process occurred, and (4) supporting letters from administrative and pastoral supervisors which identify and document a variety of professional experiences.
 - The applicant must submit the completed Professional Experience Portfolio to the Dean of the Theological Seminary not later than October 1 following the completion of 16 credits. The portfolio is reviewed by a Professional Experience Committee which submits its recommendation to the dean. For details, contact the Director of the MA in Pastoral Ministry program.
- *Students earning the Master of Arts in Youth Ministry degree also may receive credit by meeting the above criteria and submitting a description of their youth-ministry experiences. These students should contact the Director of the MA in Youth Ministry program for details.

MA: Youth Ministry

A. Barry Gane, *Director*

The MA in Youth Ministry requires intensive study in the specialized field of youth ministry. The graduate of the MA in Youth Ministry is competent to

- Develop, direct, and evaluate youth ministry programs in the local church and other targeted areas with both professional and theological competency
- Recruit, nurture, and disciple youth in Christian service and vocation
- Recruit, nurture, and disciple adult youth leaders
- Develop the ability to reflect constructively and theologically upon the content and process of youth ministry
- Serve in a variety of vocations, such as youth pastor, dormitory dean, local church youth leader, conference youth leader, and guidance counselor.