

MA Religion Frequently Asked Online Questions

What should I expect after being accepted?

You can expect to be contacted by the MA Religion, Academic Advisor, via email. He/she will be asking you to activate your User Name and Password and will be working towards getting you ready for course registration. You will also gain access to a Learning Hub course entitled “Online Student Orientation”. This online class will provide links, resources and information that will prepare you for your online classes. You will need to complete the class within your first semester in the program. It is best to complete this course as soon as possible, as it is sharing a lot of the information you will need before your first semester starts.

How much time should I expect to be online when taking a class?

The classes will vary based on the professor and how they have chosen to set-up the class. The syllabus will be the best way to learn when and how often you will need to be on scheduled online chats or assignments. The online classes are created with a busy home and work schedule in mind.

Most classes require you to view recorded lectures, do online research and complete specific reading assignments. Occasional scheduled group chats or online sessions are scheduled and noted in the class syllabus and/or Learning Hub class session. You will then need to schedule yourself to meet the assignment deadlines and exam schedules. Questions can always be forwarded to the class facilitator who is assigned to assist the professor and the student in any given class.

How do I register for classes?

You will register for classes via the Andrews system entitled “Registration Central” (Tutorial is provided in the Online Student Orientation class.). Your Academic Advisor will send you a list of classes and step-by-step instructions for registration every semester. The email will be sent to your Andrews email* address. Deadlines for the semester and other important information will be included in the email. You can expect the email to arrive about a month before classes start.

* Please be sure to forward your Andrews email to your personal email if you do not want to have to check both. Instructions on how to forward your Andrews email are provided at the following Information Technology Services link:

<https://www.andrews.edu/services/its/clientservices/google/faq.html>

How do I get a copy of a syllabus and learn what textbooks are needed?

Syllabi are provided on the Andrews Course Schedule for all classes. You can secure a syllabus by following the steps below:

- www.andrews.edu
- Click on **Current Students** (Found at the top of the page.)
- Click on **Course Schedule** (Automatically defaults to current semester. You can select another semester if you wish.)
- Change the menu option under the category College/School to “**Theological Seminary**”. This will shrink the list to classes only offered within the seminary.

- Find your class alphabetically on the list – click on “**Syllabus**” – far right of the listings. You will need to submit your username and password in order to receive a PDF copy of the syllabus. If one is not provided, email the professor of record. An automatic email can be sent by clicking on their name, which is also provided on the list of classes.
- Syllabus will list books/textbooks required and class expectations.

When/how do I decide if I will do a thesis/project/or comprehensive exams?

Students decide which final capstone project they wish to complete. It is usually determined by your future goals. Students wanting to apply for future doctoral degrees are encouraged to do a thesis. However, if you are planning to go into a professional or ministry arena rather than an academic environment, you may want to choose a Research Project as your final capstone. Comprehensive Exams are usually selected by students who are not interested in pursuing degrees past the master level. Your Academic Advisor will have a conversation with you regarding your future plans and help you decide what is best. It is recommended that you select your final capstone project during the first semester in the program. This will help determine which classes you should take in the future.

If you have additional questions, feel free to email the MA Religion office at mareligion@andrews.edu .