

The Design and Purpose of the ARTS Degree Programs

Choosing the Right ARTS Degree Program

Each student should carefully consider and choose the degree program that best fits the student's calling from God, gifts, capabilities, ministry interests, ministry goals, time available and funding. Each student is expected to discuss the degree options with the Director of Admissions, Registrar or the Principal at the initial application and enrollment interview and choose to enroll in one degree program. A student who selects and begins one program may change programs at a later date, under the advisement of the Registrar, Academic Dean or Principal.

Although the ARTS degree programs share much in common, each program has a different character, focus and purpose.

The Master of Divinity (MDiv; 116 credits; with Greek and Hebrew 130 credits) is the ARTS standard degree for the pastoral training of ministry practitioners. It is the benchmark graduate seminary degree world-wide for training pastors for effective preaching, shepherding and equipping of Christ's sheep for ministry. It is designed to prepare men for effective, ordained, pastoral ministry in the local church, for church planting, for teaching and leadership roles and to prepare pastors called to equip and train other pastors. It is also aimed to equip non-ordained men and women for effective, theologically grounded leadership roles both in and outside the church. The over-all goal of the program is to equip leaders for gospel-driven churches and Christ-exalting ministry. It is the longest, most demanding and most comprehensive of the ARTS degree programs and provides the most extensive exposure to preaching and pastoral disciplines and to the understanding and skills required for competent church leadership. It requires all the ARTS Old Testament Bible courses, all of the NT required Bible courses including three elective NT courses, both biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew, and all of the theology, church history, and practical theology courses. Required minimum time for the fully-focused and full-time student is three (3) years. Some students may require an additional semester to complete degree requirements. The MDiv also has the advantage for students who plan to pursue a PhD or a Doctor of Ministry program in the future after completing the ARTS degree. The MDiv is a standard platform for a future PhD in theology or for the DMin due to the fact that many PhD and D.Min. programs require the general course work of the MDiv and specifically the course work and/or competency in both Hebrew and Greek. The MDiv program does require three courses in both Greek and Hebrew, whereas the MATS programs require Greek only.

The MDiv can be completed in the same time period as the shorter MATS degree programs. However, about 17; with Greek and Hebrew 130 credits) more courses are required over the three-year period. The MDiv degree program must be completed in six (6) years.

The Master of Arts Biblical Counseling (MABC; 86 credits; with Computer Applications, 88 credits) is designed to equip men and women for biblical counseling ministry in the church and community with a strong emphasis on the theology and practice of biblical counseling and on the training of others for biblical counseling. This degree differs from the MATS BC (see below) in having 6 more courses in biblical counseling (12 more credits), no Greek requirement and less courses in biblical,

historical, and theological studies. The graduate is equipped to serve as a biblical counselor, and to develop ministries like planting a church-based biblical counseling ministry, training church members as biblical counselors, and training primary and secondary school teachers in biblical counseling of students, etc. This degree may be added to the MDiv, either before or after earning the MDiv. The MABC provides a biblical counseling emphasis for ordained pastors and associate pastors in biblical counseling ministries and for women who serve in the church as women's leaders, women's group coordinators, Bible teachers, counselors and counselor trainers. Required time is three years for a full-time student. The degree program must be completed in five (5) years.

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies Biblical Counseling Emphasis (MATS BC; 84 credits; with Greek and Computer Applications, 92) is designed to prepare men and women for various ministries in the church and community where a strong foundation in biblical and theological studies is desired and where ministry in biblical counseling will be a focus. This degree is shorter than the MDiv but has a similar, but less extensive foundation in biblical, historical, theological studies, practical theology and NT Greek. Required time is three (3) years for a full-time student. The degree program must be completed in five (5) years.

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies Christian Education Emphasis (MATS CE; 82 credits; with Greek and Computer Applications, 90 credits) prepares men and women to effectively apply sound biblical educational and discipleship principles in the context of church education programs or the Christian school (or both) in ministries like teaching, administration, consultation, program development, teacher recruitment and training, school planting, school development, curriculum analysis and curriculum evaluation. The goal is to acquire the theological understanding and skill to implement Christ-centered education, learning and discipleship that promotes a biblical worldview and the development of Christian character. This degree equips ordained pastors and associate pastors with the theological foundations for Christian education in schools (education is the largest sector of the Ugandan economy and of many African nations). This degree also equips women who serve in teaching, administration, development, curriculum evaluation, teacher training and consultation in church-related schools, private schools and in public schools. This program is shorter than the MDiv but has a similar, but less extensive foundation in biblical, historical, theological studies, practical theology and NT Greek. Required time is three (3) years for a full-time student. The degree program must be completed in five (5) years.

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies Pastoral Leadership Emphasis (MATS PL; 88 credits; with Greek and Computer Applications, 96 credits) is designed to equip ordained pastors for effective pastoral ministry and leadership in the local church through a less extensive program than the MDiv. This degree provides about 75% of the courses in the Master of Divinity curriculum with a strong emphasis on biblical and theological studies, preaching, pastoral ministry, pastoral leadership, practical theology and NT Greek. Biblical Hebrew is not required for this degree. It requires the "heart" of the MDiv program, as a "shorter" degree. It is designed for an ordained pastor or pastor-candidate who desires to be trained to lead a gospel-driven church. The student should keep in mind that both the MDiv and the MATS PL will require three years for graduation. The MATS PL and the MDiv can be completed in the same time-frame, but the MATS PL has seventeen (17) less courses than the MDiv. Required time for the MATS is three (3) years for a full-time student. The degree program must be completed in five (5) years.

