Purpose Statement

The Master of Christian Studies exists to raise the level of ministry competence among bi-vocational pastors, missionaries, church planters, foreign nationals planting ethnic churches in the U.S., church staff members, and laypersons seeking a more thorough blending of faith and life in the workplace through on-site offerings in Jackson, Hendersonville (Nashville area), and Memphis, as well as through online offerings.

Program Emphases

MCS courses are foundational, in terms of the student’s ability to think biblically and theologically, and synergistic, fostering effective ministry. MCS students become biblically and theologically grounded, while developing ministry skills that integrate faith and learning.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

• Students will acquire competence in (and deepen their analytical skills as they reflect on) the biblical text, theology, and Christian history, as well as how these apply to the ministries of churches.
• Students will acquire skill in Bible study methods, Christian ethics, and leadership principles.
• Students will integrate what they learn in classes with the ministry they complete in their church or ministry setting.
• Students will be more motivated to participate in and lead their churches in advancing the kingdom of God.
• Students will demonstrate commitment to apply Scripture to their personal lives and ministries.

Required Courses Include:

Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise .. 3 hrs.
Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God’s Rule ... 3 hrs.
Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching .......... 3 hrs.
Theology I: God, Revelation and Humanity......... 3 hrs.
Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things ... 3 hrs.
Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity 3 hrs.
Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity...................................................... 3 hrs.
Introduction to Christian Ethics.................... 3 hrs.
Christian Leadership.................................. 3 hrs.
Total: .................................................. 33 hrs.

Academic Calendars and Schedules

Calendars and Schedule of Course offerings for the M.C.S. program follow those for non-cohort programs. For additional information see www.uu.edu/mcs

Admission Requirements

1. A Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
2. Official transcript(s) showing all course work, completion of baccalaureate degree(s), and all graduate credit previously attempted. Even if withdrawal occurred prior to earning credits and even if those credits do not apply to the current degree being sought, official transcripts must be sent from each institution.
3. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) are accepted on academic probation on an individual basis.
4. Complete online M.C.S. application process at https://www.uu.edu/applications/graduate and submit $25 application fee.
5. Three personal letters of recommendation.
6. If English is not a student’s first language, minimum scores of 560 or 220 computer must be achieved on the TOEFL.

Transfer of Credit

Up to nine semester hours of graduate credit from a regionally accredited college or university may be transferred into the degree program at the time the student is admitted provided the grades earned were B or higher.

Financial Information

Application Fee: .................................................. $25
General Student Fee:....................................$20/hour
Tuition per Semester Hour: ................................$325

Payment is expected in full upon enrollment unless the student participates in a FACTS monthly electronic draft from checking or savings account.

All financial information is subject to change without notice.
Financial Assistance
Students enrolled in the MCS Program may apply for the Federal Stafford Loan. A Graduate Application for Financial Assistance and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form must be completed by each applicant. A Master Promissory Note must also be on file in the Student Financial Planning Office.

Union University is approved by the Department for Veterans Affairs to offer educational benefits to veterans, reservists, and dependents of veterans who qualify for Veterans Benefits. Any person who qualifies for VA Benefits should check with the Student Financial Planning Office as soon as possible upon registration.

Graduation Requirements
A. The completion of 33 hours of course work with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
B. The fulfillment of all financial obligations
C. The approval of the faculty

Course Descriptions: Master of Christian Studies (MCS)

500. Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise (3)
An investigation of the theological implications of God's promises that were given to his covenant people, as well as the people's response to God in praise and lament. This course will analyze these themes through the study of the history, background, literary genre, structure, and theology of Genesis through Psalms. Exegetical methodologies for analyzing narrative and poetic texts will be introduced.

505. Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God's Rule (3)
An investigation of how practical principles of divine wisdom impact human behavior and doubting, how God's plan to create a world of justice and trust impacted Israelite and world history, and how God's sovereign power will one day triumph and usher in the messianic kingdom. This course will introduce a method of analyzing the prophet's messages in order to perceive how they attempted to transform the worldview of their audiences by persuading them to change their thinking and behavior.


A survey of the Pauline epistles, the general epistles and Revelation, with more intensive study of selected texts and issues. Included is a survey of basic issues in Pauline theology, issues in interpreting New Testament letters and the hermeneutics of the book of Revelation.

520. Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching (3)
An exploration of the methods, tools, and practices associated with the interpretation and application of the Bible. Students will exegete selected biblical passages, moving from the ancient text to the modern world.

530. Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity (3)
A survey of the history of Christianity from the late first century through the fifteenth century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Patristic and Medieval periods.

531. Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity (3)
A survey of the history of Christianity from the early sixteenth century to the early twenty-first century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Reformation and Modern periods.

537. Introduction to Christian Ethics (3)
An introduction to Christian ethics that focuses on ethical methodology and application of Christian ethical principles to key issues in church and society.

538. Christian Leadership (3)
The course focuses on how biblical values affect models of organizational leadership within the local church and other Christian institutions.

545. Theology I: God, Revelation, and Humanity (3)
A study of the nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on prolegomena, God and revelation, and the doctrine of humanity.

546. Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things (3)
A study of nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on the person and work of Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Church and Last Things.
Ministry Track Courses (Optional)

Students completing all 33 hours required for the MCS and the 9 hours listed here as optional ministry track courses will also receive the “Certificate of Ministry Leadership.”

535. Communicating Biblical Truth (3)
Communicating Biblical Truth is a study of the basics of sermon development and delivery, as well as the art and craft of teaching biblical truth.

Ministry Track Courses (Optional)

536. Evangelism and Missions (3)
An introduction to the ministry of evangelism and missions that moves from its biblical basis and theological foundations to a study of contemporary strategies, methodologies, movements, and trends with a focus on their practical application.

539. The Ministry of Biblical Counsel (3)
An introduction to the underlying principles and methods involved in offering biblical counseling in today’s church and society.

Offered as needed

579. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)
All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

580. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)
All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

585. Special Study (1-4)
Group studies which do not appear in the department course offerings. Course content will be determined by need.

598. Seminar (1-4)
Graduate studies seminar to be used at the discretion of the department.

655. Independent Study (1-4)
Individual research and study under the guidance of a graduate faculty member.

Please note: The MCS curriculum was revised for students beginning with August 2012 enrollment. Students enrolled before August 2012 should consult their catalogue of record (the catalogue from the year they were enrolled) to find the curriculum requirements applicable to their MCS degree.