The Word of God International University
Master of Theology degree

PURPOSE

The **Master of Theology (M.Th.)** program at **The Word of God International University (WGIU)** is designed:

1. To extend training in pastoral ministry for the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry, and the edification of The Body of Christ;

2. To provide seminary training in Theology, teaching five-fold ministry candidates to research, using spirit-led revelation based knowledge;

3. To prepare graduates for doctoral study through learning research methods for writing and planning for a ministerial teaching credential.

REQUIREMENTS

Admission Requirements

The following are prerequisites for admission to the program:

1. Applicants for the M.Th. program need a Bachelor of Theology degree or its academic equivalent. With or without a Bachelor of Theology, you must take an entrance exam and pass with an 80% in order to start the M.Th. program. Without out a Bachelor of Theology degree or with any non-theological bachelor degree, you must take two years of pre-requisites if you don't pass the entrance exam with an 80%.

2. Applicants must complete an enrollment review for admissions.

3. Credits may be transferred from another institution, particularly if they are similar to WGIU curriculum and course work. Courses may be transferred to the M.Th. degree program from previous work at **WGIU** (including its satellite centers), or other similar accredited institutions. Transfer of these credits requires administrative approval.

Graduation Requirements

1. <u>Grade Point Average</u>: Completion of ten courses; eight core classes and two electives. Also, a total of 96 credits or units of course work at **WGIU** with a minimum average GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is a must, and only courses designated for graduate credit may apply toward the degree. Grades below B are not accepted in the program.

2. <u>Thesis</u>: A thesis of at least 30,000 words (150 pages), double-spaced is required; however, approval is not based on mere length but on intellectual content, literary excellence, and compositional structure. The thesis must conform to The American Psychological Association (APA) manual, 6th edition. A copy of the thesis will become the property of the University.

3. <u>Time Limit</u>: The M.Th. degree is a one year program; the normal course load, being ten courses per quarter. Daily Chapel or General Assembly is required. The M.Th. program must be completed within seven years, except when an extension is granted for extra-ordinary circumstances.

4. <u>Credit Transfer</u>: The M.Th. program allows units or credits transferred from study programs equivalent or greater than WGIU's M.Th. program. Under special circumstances more may be transferred upon approval.

PROGRAM SCOPE

The scope of an M.Th. thesis should be comparable to a full-length article in a scholarly journal. It should, in other words, deal with a well defined problem and procedure with sufficient review of previous work. The minimum length allowed is 150 pages, 30,000 words plus bibliography, double-spaced. Requests to exceed this limit must be approved. As an opportunity for you to develop research skills through investigating a particular subject matter or topic centered around making your calling an election sure, you must introduce the "How to?" in your ministerial approach for your thesis, textbook, and workbook. Any subject related your calling in the ministry is acceptable. You will present the findings in the thesis.

Program Goal

WGIU: *Offering the M.Th Degree..."Discover The Way of LOVE!"*

The goal of the M.Th. degree at **WGIU** is to provide students with an opportunity for study in biblical, theological or historical studies at the most advanced level short of the Master of Divinity program. This purpose is accomplished as students meet the specific learning goals of the program. In the pursuit of a fuller mastery of service leadership and life empowerment skills, students will cultivate a greater command of a substantive area of scholarship and practice, while developing skills in the area of research methodology and implementation. They will engage with primary sources, scholarly interchange, and apologetics in a peer review learning community. The results of one's research is essential for the benefit of the body of Christ, The Church, as well as for scholarly audiences.

Program Focus

The M.Th. program is theological focused on the classical and practical disciplines: Old Testament Research, New Testament Research, Biblical Counseling, Apologetics, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Seminary, and World Missions. You must teach your class for one school year, utilizing the research material and course outline for your thesis, textbook, and workbook. Within this general context, students are encouraged to use the LAMAD curriculum method with weekly reviews, realizing individualized, mastery learning. You are expected to demonstrate a good understanding of Biblical research concept and method, the ability to spiritually discern God's will in the area of your subject, and the ability to communicate clearly and concisely in written form.

Program Characteristics

The M.Th. program has been designed around three educational distinctives that are reflected in the key educational objectives of the M.Th. degree at **WGIU**:

1. To support students in achieving a fuller mastery of substantive content and research skills related to biblical studies, theology, and/or church ministry.

2. To direct students in a perspective necessary for addressing conceptual issues encountered in the interpretation of biblical studies, theology, and church ministry.

3. To equip students with knowledge and skills in pedagogy and curriculum development; suited for church-based operations, along with adult or higher education accredited instruction.

THESIS

Introduction

The thesis must demonstrate the use of standard research methods, as well as an adequate grasp and treatment of the subject matter. Your research should be conducted using over 75% scholarly peer-review journals published within five years of completing your thesis. The grammar and style must conform to acceptable norms. Again, the thesis must conform to The American Psychological Association (APA) manual, 6th edition.

Academic Honesty

As part of our purpose to train servants of the God to walk with God in all of life and win souls, we expect godly integrity in the academic work done at Covenant. God's covenant with His people calls for honesty and a commitment to truth as in the Ninth Commandment. As we live in that covenant and in community with one another, upholding truth is an essential duty. Specifically applied to academic labors, this means that we accurately represent our work to others. In other words, neither cheating nor plagiarism is tolerated.

Plagiarism, simply defined, is presenting the ideas of others as if they were one's own. The ideas of others can be written or spoken, published or non-published. The presentation of those ideas can be in a quotation, a paraphrase, a summary, or simply as the idea behind one's own thoughts. Proper credit must always be given to the source of ideas through documentation, regardless of whether or not a professor has specifically requested footnotes and/or a bibliography.

Cheating in an academic environment simply means violating the rules under which papers, projects, and examinations are to be completed. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to: using unauthorized sources for help on an exam, turning in the same paper or work for credit in different courses without knowledge and approval of the professor(s), or taking answers or work from fellow classmates with or without their consent.

The first violation of these standards will result in failure of the assignment or test in question and could, depending on the assignment, result in failure of the course. A second violation will result in dismissal from **WGIU**.

Core Academic Course Requirements

The Master of Theology degree program provides academic study with an emphasis on instructional leadership. It aims to develop in the student an informed, critical approach to a chosen field of study through graduate courses, a thesis, textbook, and workbook. Students must teach what they believe as an approach for change. You must develop a flyer, syllabus or course outline, and recruit your own students for your class.

The areas of degree concentration for successful implementation:

1. Old Testament Research - New Testament Research
2. Biblical Counseling - Apologetics
3. Hermeneutics - Homiletics
4. Apologetics - World Missions
5. Teaching/Learning Process - LAMAD Curriculum
6. Biblical Leadership - Biblical Life Empowerment

Academic Curriculum, Procedures, and Expectations

In order to remain in good academic standing, a student must satisfactorily complete all other requirements of the program as established in the **WGIU** catalog. Review the catalog to make sure that all requirements are fulfilled. Please be advised that academic policies and procedures in the university catalog apply also to the M.Th. degree. You must receive an A or B in order to complete your thesis, textbook, and workbook. Consequently, a failure to complete any part is a FAIL grade or mark on your report card and transcript. No exceptions.

THESIS PROPOSAL AND FULFILLMENT

While completing course requirements, the student will make an appointment for thesis preparation. The thesis is intended to demonstrate the student's ability to pursue research in the area of concentration. The thesis is not necessarily an original contribution to scholarship, however it should not duplicate existing scholarship.

Step 1: Topic Approval

January 31st: Students must propose a thesis topic and receive approval, no later than January 31st. Students frequently struggle to narrow down a topic enough to be treated realistically in a thesis. Topics must be exegetical based and specific enough to be covered thoroughly in the thesis. References must demonstrate a familiarity with both primary and secondary material.

Step 2: Thesis Proposal

March 31st: Students must prepare a thesis proposal including:

1. Title page

2. Detailed outline describing the content of the thesis

3. Introduction

4. Thesis statement or statement of the nature and purpose of the thesis

5. Methodology and rationale

6. Literature review or brief discussion of the existing scholarship on the topic

7. References

Students must submit and receive approval of a thesis proposal by March 31st. Students who do not turn in work progressively may be required to make major revisions too late in the process and may thus jeopardize the completion date for the thesis (and, possibly, graduation).

During the time of consultation, the student arranges a session with the advisor or professor before February 29th to review research strategies pertaining to the proposal and to refine the working references. The proposal is completed and turn in for review and approval. Also, a copy must be emailed.

Step 3: <u>Semi-final Draft Approval</u>

April 15th: The student must submit a typed, semi-final draft of the thesis and an abstract (see below) by April 15th. Semi-final drafts should include the general content of the entire thesis (subject to correction and revision). Remember, the thesis should be no less than 30,000 words or 150 pages in length, not counting the footnotes and bibliography. Your professor, advisor, or academic dean will indicate needed changes or amendments to the document.

The abstract should be approximately 500 words and should summarize the thesis, including the student's proposition and conclusion. Students should not wait to turn in thesis at once. It should be submitted as sections of the outline are finished, so that the thesis can be reviewed as the document is written. Students who do not turn in work progressively may be required to make major revisions.

Step 4: <u>Abstract</u>

Beginning with the semi-final draft, each draft of the complete thesis must be accompanied by an abstract of approximately 500 words. An abstract is an abbreviated, accurate representation of the contents of the document. It enables readers to identify the basic content of the document quickly and accurately.

Abstracts usually contain (1) a statement of purpose or the reasons why the document was written; (2) a description of the techniques or approaches used to the degree that this is necessary for comprehension; (3) a concise and informative enumeration of the results; and (4) an indication of the conclusions (evaluations, applications, and suggestions) which are related to the results and purposes of the document.

A good abstract contains complete sentences and is free from footnotes or lists of references to the text. It does not include information or claims not contained in the document itself. Unfamiliar terms, acronyms, abbreviations or symbols should be avoided or defined the first time they occur in the abstract. The third person will avoid cumbersome sentence structure and lead to greater clarity.

The abstract must be typed, double-spaced. It should be placed before the title page. Its heading should include the word ABSTRACT together with the title of the thesis. The abstract is not included in the page numbering.

April 15th: The sample semi-final thesis and abstract with properly formatted references is submitted, no later than April 15th of the year in which the degree is granted.

Step 5: Complete Rough Draft for Final Review

April 30th: The student must submit a complete, rough draft for final review with 500-word abstract, no later than April 30th. The thesis rough draft for final review must be approved. Approval will consider content as well as form. The draft will be returned to the student for final corrections. The rough draft, completed thesis is submitted by email for review, correction and recommendations by April 30th of the year in which the degree is to be granted.

Step 6: Final Corrected Copy

Once final corrections have been made, the final corrected copy must be submitted to the Dean for approval by May 31st.

May 31st : The students submits a final, typographically perfect copy of the thesis for approval by email, no later than May 31st

Step 7: Submission of Final Copies

After the final form of the thesis has been approved, the student must produce a copy (with abstract) for binding and permanent retention in the **WGIU** library.

June 30th: After securing the final approval, the binding for the thesis is provided by a private vender. The thesis must be printed on 20-pound acid-free paper with at least 20 percent rag content and typed in a standard typeface appropriate for scholarly material.

For further information, contact Dr. Joshua Smith. The student submits a bound, boxed (one designed for typing paper is ideal) copy of the thesis by June 30th of the year in which the degree is granted. A copy is placed in the library once reviewed and accepted.

DEADLINE: July 15th: The student will not be certified for graduation until the Academic Dean notifies the Registrar that an acceptable copy of the thesis has been received. Only at that point is the student approved to graduate from **WGIU**. Students who do not meet the deadline in this section and the final deadline for the thesis of July 15th may graduate, but cannot receive a diploma during the year in question. Requirements must be completed in order to receive diploma.

Commencement

Attendance at commencement is expected. Graduating students not planning to attend are to notify the Office of the Registrar in writing by July 15th.