

QUICK REFERENCE • RESEARCH DOCTORAL STUDIES

ThM Program Overview

The Th.M. program provides advanced academic training to deepen knowledge in a specialized area and produce major scholarly research, primarily serving as a preparatory step for doctoral studies (Ph.D.).

Program Overview

- **Program Duration:** Designed for completion in 3 to 5 semesters, with a maximum allowable time of 6 semesters (3 years).
- **Concentration Areas:** Biblical Studies, Historical and Theological Studies, Philosophy and Theological Studies, and Practical Theology.
- **Supervisor Selection:** Students contact a potential supervisor with a completed “Research Proposal” during their second semester by following the instructions in Canvas course 44560.

Curriculum Track

Feature	Content
Introductory Requirements	GRS (81020) & FTS (81260) — 4 hours total
Coursework	6 courses: Advanced M.Div. electives (Potential for up to 2 Ph.D. seminars) — 18 hours total
Capstone / Thesis Courses	2 courses: Supervised Research (44560) & Guided Mentorship (81900) — 3 hours total
Total Credit Hours	25 hours

Capstone & Thesis Requirements

- **Standard Capstone Project:** Requires an 8,000–15,000 word journal-quality paper, developed by revising/expanding prior graduate work or completing an approved new research topic. For most students, this paper should be a significant expansion and revision of a paper previously written by the student.
- **Capstone / Thesis:** Requires a 15,000–18,000 word master’s-level thesis based on original research.
- **Final Submissions:** Due October 15 (fall) or March 15 (spring) under the guidance of an assigned faculty advisor. Submit via Canvas course 81900.
- **Oral Defense:** Not required; project acceptance is determined by the supervisor using the RDS Grading Rubric.

Academic Policies

- **Minimum Grade Policy:** The minimum passing grade for any course in the program is "B". Lower grades result in academic probation.
- **Continuation Fees:** Assessed at \$1,000 per semester for any term beyond 3 enrolled semesters.

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