Master of Arts in Theological Studies

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) provides students with an interdisciplinary knowledge of biblical studies, church history, and theology. It prepares students to engage in research and analysis that is informed by those disciplines and contributes to the advance of the church, missions, or marketplace.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon the completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the Old and New Testaments through a comprehensive grasp of each book's theme, design, and theology.
- Defend the theology of the Christian faith with biblical and philosophical arguments that resonate with today's modern culture.
- Develop a stronger spiritual walk through a fuller understanding of evangelism, discipleship, leadership, and world missions.
- Demonstrate competency in critical thinking, research, and writing at a scholarly level.

Knowledge:

Demonstrate an understanding of the Old and New Testaments through a comprehensive grasp of each book's theme, design, and theology.

Measure	Target	Cycle	Next Collection	Person Responsible
OT Survey 1: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
OT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
NT Survey 1: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
NT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
ABHE Bible Exam (Bible comp)	at/above national norm	Annually	Spring 2025	Provost

Measurement Means	Benchmark for Success	Results and Implications
OT Survey 1: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2023-24: 88% (n = 8, final exam or final grade) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 79% (n = 14, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 67% (n = 3)

		Implications: Course needs a uniform final exam in all instances.
OT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2023-24: 80% (n = 10, final exam and final grade) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 80% (n = 10, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 57% (n = 7) Implications: Course needs a uniform final exam in all instances.
NT Survey 1: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2023-24: 67% (n = 9) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 81% (n = 21, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 50% (n = 6) Implications: Course needs a uniform final exam in all instances.
NT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2023-24: 90% (n = 20) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 80% (n = 5, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 67% (n = 6) Implications: The final exam in one course was 10 multiple choice questions…and all students made over 100%. We need to clarify when and when not to add extra credit. Assignments used for assessment need to NOT have extra credit given that pushes that grade over so much.
ABHE Bible Exam (Bible comp)	at/above national norm	Results: AY 2023-24: No “grad” students took the exam. Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: AY 2021-22: Implications: Determine where/when/how the graduate students are to take this assessment.

Defend the theology of the Christian faith with biblical and philosophical arguments that resonate with today's modern culture.

Measure	Target	Cycle	Next Collection	Person Responsible
Doctrine 1: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
Doctrine 2: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
Doctrine 3: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
ABHE Bible Exam (theology comp)	at/above national norm	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty

Measurement Means	Benchmark for Success	Results and Implications
Doctrine 1: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2023-24: No data. Past Three Years: No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: Still waiting on rubric and new assignment to be developed.
Doctrine 2: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2023-24: No data. Past Three Years: No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: Still waiting on rubric and new assignment to be developed.
Doctrine 3: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2023-24: No data. Past Three Years: No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: Still waiting on rubric and new assignment to be developed.
ABHE Bible Exam (theology comp)	at/above national norm	Results: AY 2023-24: No "grad" students took the exam. Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: AY 2021-22: Implications:

		Determine where/when/how the graduate students are to take this assessment.

Abilities:
Students will demonstrate competency in critical thinking, research, and writing at a scholarly level.

Measure	Target	Cycle	Next Collection	Person Responsible
Introduction to Theological Research: Final Paper	75% of students score at least a 81/B- or higher on the final paper.	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
Hermeneutics: Exegetical Paper	75% of students score at least a 81/B- or higher on the final paper.	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty

Measurement Means	Benchmark for Success	Results and Implications
Introduction to Theological Research: Final Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper	Results: AY 2023-24: 35% (n = 23) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 29% (n = 7) New course began in 2022-23. Implications: In 2023-24, 4 students did not submit their final paper. Overall, graduate students still struggle with writing, research, and Turabian. This class has been a huge help, but they are still struggling.
Hermeneutics: Exegetical Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper	Results: AY 2023-24: 82% (n = 11) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 91% (n = 11) AY 2021-22: 71% (n = 7) Implications: None

Attitude:
Develop a stronger spiritual walk through a fuller understanding of evangelism, discipleship, leadership, and world missions.

Measure	Target	Cycle	Next Collection	Person Responsible
Biblical Servanthood & Leadership: Final Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty

	(rubric for leadership, not rubric for writing/research)			
Spiritual Formation: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on core paper??? (rubric for spiritual formation, not rubric for writing/research)	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
Evangelism & Missions: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper (rubric for evan/missions, not rubric for writing/research)	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty
Advanced Discipleship: Final Project??	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final project???	Annually	Spring 2025	Faculty

Measurement Means	**Benchmark for Success**	**Results and Implications**
Biblical Servanthood & Leadership: Final Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper (rubric for leadership, not rubric for writing/research)	Results: AY 2023-24: 67% (n = 3) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 94% (n = 18) AY 2021-22: 100% (n = 8) Implications: None
Spiritual Formation: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on core paper??? (rubric for spiritual formation, not rubric for writing/research)	Results: AY 2023-24: 92% (n = 13) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 85% (n = 13) AY 2021-22: 100% (n = 4) Implications: Course needs a uniform final exam in all instances.
Evangelism & Missions: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper (rubric for evan/missions, not rubric for writing/research)	Results: AY 2023-24: 100% (n = 1) Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 62% (n = 13, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 67% (n = 6) Implications: Course needs a uniform final exam in all instances.
Advanced Discipleship: Final Project	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B-	Results: AY 2023-24: 33% (n = 6)

	of higher on final project	Past Three Years: AY 2022-23: 40% (n = 5) AY 2021-22: 88% (n = 8) Implications: Course artifact needs reviewing. Would a final exam be a better general assessment of discipleship?