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 ook'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	Every Spring	Faculty
OT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty
NT Survey 1: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty
NT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty
ABHE Bible Exam (Bible comp)	at/above national norm	Annually	Every Spring	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 2024-25: 94% (n = 16, combo of one section with a final exam and one with a final course grade) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 88% (n = 8, final exam or final grade) AY 2022-23: 79% (n = 14, final course grade)

		AY 2021-22: 67% (n = 3) Implications: This course still needs a common artifact exam.
OT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2024-25: 100% (n = 7, course grade) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 80% (n = 10, final exam and final grade) AY 2022-23: 80% (n = 10, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 57% (n = 7) Implications: This course still needs a common artifact exam.
NT Survey 1: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2024-25: 100% (n = 10, combo of one section with final exam and one with final course grade) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 67% (n = 9) AY 2022-23: 81% (n = 21, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 50% (n = 6) Implications: This course still needs a common artifact exam.
NT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2024-25: 50% (n = 8, final course grade) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 90% (n = 20) AY 2022-23: 80% (n = 5, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 67% (n = 6) Implications: This course still needs a common artifact exam.
ABHE Bible Exam (Bible comp)	at/above national norm	Results: AY 2024-25: +2.2 value added compared to Fall 2024 to Spring 2025. Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: No “grad” students took the exam. AY 2022-23: AY 2021-22: Implications: ABHE Bible Exam is not currently set up to show “graduate” data easily. Thus, we pulled the data for the Fall “incoming” cohort 3 years prior with the data for “outgoing” Spring cohort. No national norm is currently available.

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	Every Spring	Faculty
Doctrine 2: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty
Doctrine 3: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty
ABHE Bible Exam (theology comp)	at/above national norm	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty

Measurement Means	Benchmark for Success	Results and Implications
Doctrine 1: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2024-25: 100% scored B- or above. No rubric attached in the course. (n = 5; only 1 course with the paper; other course did not have it). Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: No data. No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: All courses need this artifact and rubric.
Doctrine 2: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2024-25: 100% scored B- or above. No rubric attached in the course. (n = 11; only 1 course with the paper; other course did not have it). Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: No data. No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: All courses need this artifact and rubric.
Doctrine 3: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2024-25: 92% scored B- or above on the Final Exam or Final Course Grade (n = 12; neither course had the paper). Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: No data. No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: All courses need this artifact and rubric.
ABHE Bible Exam (theology comp)	at/above national norm	Results: AY 2024-25: -0.6 value added compared to Fall 2024 to Spring 2025.

		Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: No "grad" students took the exam. AY 2022-23: AY 2021-22: Implications: ABHE Bible Exam is not currently set up to show "graduate" data easily. Thus, we pulled the data for the Fall "incoming" cohort 3 years prior with the data for "outgoing" Spring cohort. No national norm is currently available.

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	Every Spring	Faculty
Hermeneutics: Exegetical Paper	75% of students score at least a 81/B- or higher on the final paper.	Annually	Every Spring	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 2024-25: 46% (n = 13) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 35% (n = 23) AY 2022-23: 29% (n = 7) New course began in 2022-23. Implications: This course was recreated this past year and saw nominal improvement. One student was given chance to resubmit and did not. Another was failed for plagiarism and AI. If those 2 had passed, it would be over 60%.
Hermeneutics: Exegetical Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper	Results: AY 2024-25: 83% (n = 12) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 82% (n = 11) AY 2022-23: 91% (n = 11) AY 2021-22: 71% (n = 7) Implications:

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 (rubric for leadership, not rubric for writing/research)	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty
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	Every Spring	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	Every Spring	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 2024-25: 78% (n = 18) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 67% (n = 3) AY 2022-23: 94% (n = 18) AY 2021-22: 100% (n = 8) Implications:
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 2024-25: 100% (n = 4, final course grade) Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 92% (n = 13) AY 2022-23: 85% (n = 13) AY 2021-22: 100% (n = 4) Implications: Course needs some sort of common artifact.
Evangelism & Missions: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B-	Results: AY 2024-25: 100% (n = 6)

	of higher on final paper (rubric for evan/missions, not rubric for writing/research)	 Past Three Years: AY 2023-24: 100% (n = 1) AY 2022-23: 62% (n = 13, final course grade) AY 2021-22: 67% (n = 6) Implications: Course needs some sort of common artifact.