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	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

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 2025-26: 57% (n = 7) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 94% (n = 16, combo of one section with a final exam and one with a final course grade) AY 2023-24: 88% (n = 8, final exam or final grade) AY 2022-23: 79% (n = 14, final course grade) Implications:

		These results are based on course grade as the new exam was not imported yet? The score is well below the benchmark. As noted, the report questions whether the proper final exam was used. We need to verify correct usage this year.
OT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2025-26: 100% (n = 6) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 100% (n = 7, course grade) AY 2023-24: 80% (n = 10, final exam and final grade) AY 2022-23: 80% (n = 10, final course grade) Implications: These results are based on course grade as the new exam was not imported yet?
NT Survey 1: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2025-26: 100% (n = 7) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 100% (n = 10, combo of one section with final exam and one with final course grade) AY 2023-24: 67% (n = 9) AY 2022-23: 81% (n = 21, final course grade) Implications: --
NT Survey 2: Final Exam	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final exam	Results: AY 2025-26: 73% (n = 11) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 50% (n = 8, final course grade) AY 2023-24: 90% (n = 20) AY 2022-23: 80% (n = 5, final course grade) Implications: --

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

Measurement Means	Benchmark for Success	Results and Implications
Doctrine 1: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2025-26: 100% (n = 13) Past Three Years: 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). AY 2023-24: No data. No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: New rubrics were created but none were used in either course instance. The above results are based on general grade for the paper assignment.
Doctrine 2: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2025-26: 90% (n = 10) Past Three Years: 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). AY 2023-24: No data. No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: New rubrics were created but none were used in either course instance. The above results are based on general grade for the paper assignment.
Doctrine 3: Theological Integration Paper	4 out of 5 on rubric	Results: AY 2025-26: 90% (n = 10) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 92% scored B- or above on the Final Exam or Final Course Grade (n = 12; neither course had the paper). AY 2023-24: No data. No process begun in 2023-24. Implications: The online course did not have the theological interpretation paper. The campus class did not use the assigned rubric.

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:	75% of students score at least a	Annually	Every Spring	Faculty

Final Paper	81/B- or higher on the final paper.			
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 2025-26: 60% (n = 5, with one student scoring a C+ which would have changed it to 80%) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 46% (n = 13) AY 2023-24: 35% (n = 23) AY 2022-23: 29% (n = 7) Implications: Still below target, but showing significant improvement over recent trends. This may be one of our best assessment success stories. While the benchmark is not met, movement is clearly positive. Continue current improvements but do not redesign the course yet.
Hermeneutics: Exegetical Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on final paper	Results: AY 2025-26: 100% (n = 6) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 83% (n = 12) AY 2023-24: 82% (n = 11) AY 2022-23: 91% (n = 11) 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: Reflection Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on core paper	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 2025-26: 100% (n = 18) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 78% (n = 18) AY 2023-24: 67% (n = 3) AY 2022-23: 94% (n = 18) Implications: --
Spiritual Formation: Reflection Paper	75% of students will earn a grade of 81/B- of higher on core paper	Results: AY 2025-26: 100% (n = 8) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 100% (n = 4, final course grade) AY 2023-24: 92% (n = 13) AY 2022-23: 85% (n = 13) Implications: Neither course instance has a specific reflection paper. The results are based on course grade.
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 2025-26: 100% (n = 3) Past Three Years: AY 2024-25: 100% (n = 6) AY 2023-24: 100% (n = 1) AY 2022-23: 62% (n = 13, final course grade) Implications: No clear final exam? Results are based on course grade.