



THE MASTER'S UNIVERSITY ONLINE

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Master's University is now offering a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS) in an online format. The purpose of this program is to provide a systematic graduate-level study of the various sections of the Old and New Testaments. It also includes an examination of the major categories of Christian Theology, with particular focus on their application to current societal issues. Through six units of independent study coursework, the student is able to develop a more advanced understanding of the biblical foundation and methods of selected aspects of church ministry that are particularly relevant to their life situation.

MABS Course Requirements

Course Number & Title		Units	Course Number & Title			Units
BTS500	Introduction to Biblical Studies *	2	BTS523	Letters & Theology of Paul		2
BTS501	Hermeneutics **	2	BTS524	General Epistles & Revelation		2
BTS511	Creation and Covenant	2	BTS550	Central Themes in Biblical Theology		2
BTS512	History of the Covenant People	2	BTS571	Contemporary Issues in Theology		2
BTS513	Prophecy and Prophets in Context	2	One of these 2	BTS510	Land of the Bible	2
BTS515	Worship and Wisdom	2		IBEX570	Physical Geography of Israel	
BTS521	Historical Background of the N.T.	2	Independent Study Electives ***			6
BTS522	Life, Ministry & Theology of Christ	2	BTS572	Seminar in Applied Biblical Studies ****		2
BTS520	Early Church & Book of Acts	2	Total units for TMU Online MA-BS Degree			36
NOTES:						
Course descriptions on reverse side of page.						
* Must be taken as the first course in the program						
** Must be taken as the second course in the program						
*** It is recommended that 4 – 6 of these elective units be “practicum” type courses.						
**** Must be taken as the last course in the program						

Program Entrance Requirements

In order to be admitted to TMU's online MABS program, an individual must have completed a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least a 2.75. In addition, prior to beginning MABS coursework, the student must have a strong foundational understanding of the Bible and theology. This can be demonstrated either through completing at least 18 semester units of undergraduate-level Biblical Studies coursework in the Old and New Testaments and Christian theology, or by completing a three-part comprehensive entrance examination.

Format & Schedule

All required courses are taught in an online format during two eight-week sessions over three semesters each year. This schedule enables students to qualify for federal financial aid.

Students taking one course per block are able to complete the major coursework in 24 months. By taking more than one course per block, students can complete the program in as little as 12 months.

TMU Online courses contain a variety of proven online instructional approaches, including brief video lectures, topical videos from the Internet or other resources, and interactive exercises and lessons. In addition, students will engage each other and the instructor through online discussion forums, chat and video conferencing sessions, and instant messaging. Student assessments will include online quizzes and exams, written papers, online speeches, role-plays, and presentations, depending on the program.

For More Information:

Call: 1-877-302-3337

Email: TMUonline@masters.edu

Go to: www.masters.edu/online

Major Course Descriptions

BTS500 Introduction to Biblical Studies (2): A graduate seminar focusing on foundational issues in the field of Biblical Studies. Seminar topics include inspiration, origin, authority, canonicity, transmission, and translation. Students will be exposed to the assumptions of critical scholarship related to the Bible and an evangelical response to those assumptions. Selected portions of the Old and New Testaments will be treated with particular attention to the conclusions of modern "higher criticism."

BTS501 Hermeneutics (2): A graduate seminar focusing on hermeneutical theory and practice related to the biblical text. Attention is given to the philosophical and literary foundations that describe the relationship between author, text, and reader; the interpretative methodologies that are applied to various Scriptural genres; and the application of interpretative theory to specific passages of Scripture.

BTS511 Creation and Covenant (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the biblical-theological study of the Pentateuch. Emphasis will be given to the foundational themes of creation and covenant as essential to biblical theology, the exploration of critical issues of authorship and composition, the discussion of interpretive options for crucial passages, and the formative influence of creation on the current public debate on origins and the age of the earth.

BTS512 History of the Covenant People (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the history of Israel from the period of the patriarchs through the Babylonian exile. Emphasis will be given to placing the history of Israel against the backdrop of the ancient Near East, from the perspective that God used the nations surrounding Israel to accomplish His purposes for her and orchestrated world history around her. Further attention will be given to the historical method and historiography concerning ancient Israel.

BTS513 Prophecy and Prophets in Context (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the Old Testament prophetic literature, with attention given to historical backgrounds and context, internal message, theological themes, and issues of criticism.

BTS515 Worship and Wisdom (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the worship and wisdom literature of the Old Testament and its application to the contemporary church and the sanctification of every believer. Issues like the problem of pain, the value of worship, and the prosperity of the wicked will all be addressed. The student will learn to seek answers to life in the true worship of God and in the wisdom of God provided in these books.

BTS521 Historical Background of the New Testament (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the history, literature, and culture of the intertestamental period from the end of the OT period to 70 A.D.

BTS522 Life, Ministry, & Theology of Christ (2): A graduate study of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ, including His role as Messiah and as Son of God. Special attention will be given to the Jewish historical and cultural background of His life, to the implications of His true humanity, and to the modern alternative theories about the facts and meaning of His life.

BTS520 Early Church and Book of Acts (2): A graduate seminar that stresses both the Greco-Roman and the Jewish historical backgrounds that underlie the events in the Book of Acts. Particular attention is then given to the roles of Peter and James in the book.

BTS523 Letters and Theology of Paul (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the writings of Paul. Attention is first given to the historical and cultural settings of Paul's life, in addition to the messages, theological themes, and analysis of selected passages in his epistles.

BTS524 Theology of General Epistles & Revelation (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the theology of the General Epistles and Revelation. Emphasis will be placed on critical issues relating to authorship, acceptance into the canon, historical settings, messages, theological themes, and interpretive problems. Special emphasis will be placed on the high priesthood of Jesus Christ as described in Hebrews and the eschatology of 2 Peter 3 and the Book of Revelation.

BTS550 Central Themes of Biblical Theology (2): A survey of how the great theological themes progressively develop through both the Old and New Testaments. The difference between this approach and that of systematic theology is the tracing of how the theme develops through the successive stages of redemptive history. Particular attention is given to the promise of a Messiah in both testaments.

BTS571 Contemporary Issues in Theology (2): A culmination seminar that seeks to integrate biblical studies with Christian faith and ministry. Students will use an evangelical theological method to address contemporary trends and emphases in theology confronting the contemporary Christian church. Students will be exposed to a wide diversity of theological literature and perspectives within and beyond the evangelical spectrum.

BTS510 Land of the Bible (2): This course is a visual study of the Land of Israel, with emphasis on the biblical sites. It employs aerial videos of the sites and 34 hours of lectures explaining the sites. In-depth study of a biblical atlas and the geographical aspects of the life of Christ are included. This course is taken if the student cannot personally visit Israel and take the IBEX570 course.

IBEX570 Physical Geography of Israel (2): A field-based examination of the physical geography of the land of Israel with attention to regional structure and topography with a view to the development of routes and settlement. This course is taught as part of a 19-day study trip to Israel led by a Master's College or a Master's Seminary professor.

BTS572 Seminar in Applied Biblical Studies (2): A graduate seminar focusing on the application of biblical studies to the life of the believer. Attention will be given to the priority of Christlikeness, the process by which this occurs in the life of the believer, and the role of disciplining towards this objective. The uniqueness of the biblical process of change will be addressed.

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