

## **B. MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

### **1. Program Description**

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree in Global Urban Mission is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals engaged in some aspect of Christian Ministry. The program provides a broad foundation in biblical, theological and historical studies. The MTS degree also addresses global and urban perspectives and allows each student to focus in an area of specialization of his/her choice. The student may take two or three courses from the specialization of their choice:

- a. Community Leadership & Organization
  - LDR 602 Organizational Leadership
  - LDR 604 Strategic Change Leadership
  - PRM 608 Community Development & Organization
  - LDR 607 Servant Leadership
- b. The Emerging Church
  - PRM 604 The Emerging Church

- PRM 605 Healthy Leaders in the Emerging Church
- PRM 617 Worship & Communication in the Emerging Church
- c. Practical Ministry
  - PRM 610 Personal Gifts & Calling
  - COM 601 Preaching & Communication
  - SFM 601 Spiritual Formation Practice & Theology
- d. Urban Youth
  - PRM 607 Urban Youth at Risk
  - PRM 611 Global Youth Trends
  - CTM 601 to CTM 606 courses

The degree may be structured around the student's ministry needs. Course offerings are structured in four semester credit hour modules which include the format as described on page 17 of this Catalogue.

The MTS program concludes with a Master's Final Project, which focuses on a contemporary theological issue relevant to the Church or a topic related to the student's area of concentration in the MTS program.

## **2. Program Outcomes**

The objectives of the MTS program are as follows:

- a. To give students a biblical and theological foundation for effective ministry;
- b. To broaden the student's ministry perspective to include urban and global realities with a Christian worldview;
- c. To build the student's understanding and application of the missional aspects of ministry;
- d. To empower students for transformational leadership within their ministry context; and
- e. To enable each student to do a significant graduate integration project within their ministry setting, applying what they have learned during the course of their MTS studies.

## **3. Advanced Standing**

If students have accumulated credits from other seminaries or institutions which they feel may be applicable to the MTS, they may petition the Academic Affairs Committee at the time of admission for advanced standing entrance into the MTS degree, transferring in approved credits at the transfer credit rate. It is the discretion of the Academic Affairs Committee to determine which courses may be transferred in and which requirements or electives they will replace.

## **4. Degree Requirements**

Students working toward the MTS degree shall complete 48 semester credit hours by taking coursework in the four core theological courses, four core perspectives courses, two courses in their specialization, one elective and a final project. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to meet MTS degree requirements. See the section on Grades in this Catalogue for policies related to grade changes.

Students who have completed approximately three quarters of their degree program may apply for candidacy. The Academic Affairs Committee will oversee the qualifying of students for candidacy. Request for candidacy will include the following procedures:

- a. The prospective candidate will have fulfilled all entrance deficiencies and other conditions stipulated at the time of admission into the program;

- b. The prospective candidate will have demonstrated a capacity for individual research, indicated by the quality of written work submitted in conjunction with course work;
- c. The prospective candidate will submit a Request for Candidacy form to the Office of the Registrar;
- d. The prospective candidate will submit a project proposal to the Academic Affairs Committee for approval. A sample proposal is available from the Registrar's Office. A project fee equal to the current course tuition for a four-credit course is to be submitted with the project proposal; and
- e. All candidacy requirements must be completed by the second week of May in the year prior to graduation (see Chapter 9, Academic Calendars).

## 5. Master's Final Project Policy

The MTS program concludes with a Master's Final Project or Philosophy of Ministry project that integrates both theory and practice of ministry. It is this combination of theory and practice in the field of the candidate's ministry which distinguishes this program from other programs that focus only on academic and experimental research. Before actual candidacy is received, students are allowed and encouraged to submit final project proposals early in their degree program in order to allow sufficient time to complete specialized work related to their project. The final project is to be written in proper form and must make a unique contribution to the body of Christian ministry knowledge. An advisor will be selected by the student from an "Approved Advisor" list to function as the primary mentor on the final project. The Academic Dean will also be available for consultation. (See Master's Final Project Handbook for details or the Philosophy of Ministry project syllabus on the BGU website.)

## 6. Curriculum

The MTS curriculum at BGU is designed to encourage a theological, missional and practical life of ministry. Courses at BGU are fluid and experience-based, while reflective in nature.

<b><i>Theological Core (16 credits)</i></b>		
<i>Course No.</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit hrs.</i>
THE 611	Applied Biblical Interpretation	4
THE 605	Old Testament: A Narrative Theology	4
THE 606	New Testament: A Narrative Theology	4
HST 601	Global Christian History	4
<b><i>Perspectives Core (16 credits)</i></b>		
MIS 605	Faith and Culture in a Pluralistic World (Int'l)**	8
MIS 606	The Missional Church	4
PRM 606	Urban Field Experience (Nat'l) **	4
<b><i>Specializations (8-12 credits)</i></b>		
	Students select a specialization consisting of a combination of two or three courses (for a total of 8-12 credits) in consultation with the MTS Director.	8-12
<b><i>Electives (4 credits)</i></b>		
	The elective course can be chosen from any of the courses offered by BGU or the student may select an independent or directed study to fulfill the elective requirement.	4
<b><i>Master's Final Project (4 credits)</i></b>		

	See <i>Master's Final Project Policy</i> on this page for detailed description of final project.	4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>

*\*\* Students may select a city/country of their choice to fulfill this requirement in consultation with the Academic Dean.*

## 7. Course Descriptions - MAGUM and MTS

**NOTE:** *The core courses are offered every year but electives and specializations are offered either on an every-other-year basis or on demand. Any course that is not either one of your specialization courses or a core course in your program can be taken as an elective course.*

All 600-level courses are master's level. Course numbering/lettering corresponds with the following:

COM	Communication
CTM	Courses offered in conjunction with Center for Transforming Mission
HST	History
LDR	Leadership
MFP	Master's Final Project
MIS	Missiology
PRM	Practical Ministry
SFM	Spiritual Formation
SMI	Courses offered in conjunction with Seattle Ministry Institute
SSM	Courses offered in conjunction with Summit School of Ministry
THE	Theology
THS	Thesis
TOW	Theology of Work
USC	Urban Studies Concentration

### **COM 601** Preaching and Communication (3 or 4 Credits)

The Church carries a rich tradition of proclamation of the Gospel. Although styles change, communication is constant. This course seeks to explore models of preaching and communication of the Gospel in a variety of contexts. Students will be exposed to a variety of models so that they can appreciate the presentation of the Gospel in multiple settings. ♣

*All CTM-numbered courses, entitled "The Street Psalms Series," are offered in conjunction with Center for Transforming Mission.*

### **CTM 601** Born From Below (3 or 4 Credits)

This introductory course looks at who Jesus was, what Jesus did, and how Jesus did it. We consider the model of Christ in mission and how to create and sustain relational ministries in a programmed world.

### **CTM 602** The Scandal of God: Loving the Least, Last & Lost (3 or 4 Credits)

We focus on what it takes to make disciples among those who have been labeled outsiders. We consider how to build ministries in which the least are greatest, the last are first and the lost are found.

### **CTM 603** The City of Joy: Welcome to God's Playground (3 or 4 Credits)

We explore God's heart for the city and its meaning for mission. We discover how to live, laugh and love in hard places. We develop practical tools for ministry transforming people as well as the places in which we live.

**CTM 604 In But Not Of: Understanding the Grammar of God** (3 or 4 Credits)

We consider mission in the post-modern, global, urban context and what it means for the Church. We consider how to be in the world but not of it. We ask the question: how far is too far? How do I love the lost without losing my soul?

**CTM 605 Image is Everything: Finding God's Breath in Humanity's Dust** (3 or 4 Credits) We consider the post-modern visual culture and how it impacts the way we see ourselves, our world and God. We discover how to build ministries that reclaim the image of God from the world's broken, fractured and sometimes destructive images.

**CTM 606 It's a Family Affair: Redeeming Our Inheritance** (3 or 4 Credits)

We explore the complex world of the family and what it means for mission. We look at the good, bad and the ugly of family systems and how they work. We help you to build ministries that serve high-risk young people and their families with the family of God.

**HST 601 Global Christian History** (3 or 4 Credits)

This course expands beyond Western Church history and also allows students to track their own theological and ecclesial histories. The students will gain insight from the lives of Christian leaders throughout history, who have been instrumental in transformative change.

**LDR 602 Introduction to Organizational Transformation** (3 or 4 Credits)

The course will focus on introducing the student to the emerging field of study of organizational transformation and its application to the challenges and opportunities facing today's global and urban ministry leader. Specific attention will be given to the factors which need to be taken into consideration in initiating, managing and sustaining needed transformational change within an urban ministry organization particularly as it relates to the role that leadership and organizational culture plays in this process.

**LDR 604 Strategic Change Leadership** (3 or 4 Credits)

In this course, the leader will study various approaches to personal and organizational change. Students will also seek to identify their own leadership values, mission and style. ♠

**LDR 607 Servant Leadership, Character, and Ethics** (3 or 4 Credits)

This course focuses on the *person* of the leader and explores the paradoxical concept of servant leadership, modeled by Jesus, within the broader context of the abundance of leadership theories, in order to gain a clearer understanding of one's true vocation, how one best leads, and the ability to lead oneself in an increasingly multi-cultural and complex world.

**MFP 601 Master's Final Project** (3 Credits)

The Master's Final Project is a final paper that is an option for the MASCE, MAGUM and MBA student in which the student is expected to draw together their course work, reading and ministry experiences into one cohesive paper. Supervisors are approved by the Academic Affairs Committee.

**MIS 605a Faith & Culture in a Pluralistic World-China** (6 or 8 Credits)

This plunge provides students with an international learning experience taught by BGU faculty and guest lecturers. Locations in Hong Kong and China provide a different approach to the subject of the post-colonial realities of the Church in the world, acknowledging that 80% of the world's Christians do not live in North America or Western Europe. This course also explores theological issues unique to the Chinese context. This course is designed to place students in the Chinese context with Chinese theologians.

**MIS 605d Faith & Culture in a Pluralistic World-India (6 or 8 Credits)**

This plunge provides students with an international learning experience taught by BGU faculty and guest lecturers. Locations in India provide a different approach to the subject of the post-colonial realities of the Church in the world, acknowledging that 80% of the world's Christians do not live in North America or Western Europe. This course also explores the theological issues unique to the Indian context. It is designed to place students in the Indian context with Indian theologians. Postmodern Hinduism and Postmodern Christianity are explored.

**MIS 605m Faith & Culture in a Pluralistic World: Manila (8 Credits)**

This plunge provides students with an international learning experience hosted and taught by BGU faculty and guests. Locations in Manila provide a different approach to the subject of the post-colonial realities of the Church in the world, acknowledging that 80% of the world's Christians do not live in North America or Western Europe. This course explores the theological issues unique to the Filipino context. This course is designed to place students in the Filipino context with Filipino theologians.

**MIS 605d Faith & Culture in a Pluralistic World: Africa (8 Credits)**

This plunge provides students with an international learning experience taught by BGU faculty and guest lecturers. Locations in Africa provide a different approach to the subject of the post-colonial realities of the Church in the world, acknowledging that 80% of the world's Christians do not live in North America or Western Europe. This course also explores theological issues unique to the African context and is designed to place students in the African context with African theologians.

**MIS 605e Faith & Culture in a Pluralistic World: Latin America (8 Credits)**

This plunge provides students with an international learning experience taught by BGU faculty and guest lecturers. Locations in South America provide a different approach to the subject of the post-colonial realities of the Church in the world, acknowledging that 80% of the world's Christians do not live in North America or Western Europe. This course explores the theological issues unique to the South American context.

**MIS 606 The Missional Church (3 or 4 Credits)**

This course gets at evangelism, reconciliation and justice and requires students to grapple with personal faith and public faith issues of the day, which does not assume that a merely "post modern" reality defines every context, but deals with that and related issues.

**PRM 604 The Emerging Church (3 or 4 Credits)**

The west has seen Christianity as a dominant cultural force for ten centuries and modernism as a dominant perspective for three centuries. Both these assumptions are changing and as a result the forms and theology of the Church are in flux. This course explores the foundational background and themes of this new, emerging Church. ♠

**PRM 605 Healthy Leaders in the Emerging Church (3 or 4 Credits)**

Pioneering leaders have different challenges than traditional leaders. This course explores how an emerging leader stays personally grounded in their calling, character, and core skills while every form they know is in flux. Key emphasis will be on building leadership development communities and flexible teams that allow centered relationships in fluid ministry environments. ♠

**PRM 606 Urban Field Experience (3 or 4 Credits)**

A vital foundational piece for the Master's program is an experiential plunge into the urban reality. Students will be guided through a process of exegesis of the city, viewing multiple

models of ministry, and reflecting on what they see and hear. This course is learning in motion. A City Consultation or a Christian Community Development Association Annual Conference may fulfill this course requirement (for further details contact the MTS Director).

**PRM 607 Youth Culture at Risk** (3 or 4 Credits)

The city is a composite of multiple systems. Government, Education, Business, Religion and other systems compete and complement each other. This course explores the various systems and helps leaders learn cross-sector networking, partnership and planning.♣

**PRM 608 Community Development** (3 or 4 credits)

In a study of the principles and practices of developing healthy and self-sustaining cultures, leadership, economies, and other systems in broken and disrupted communities, this course focuses on the Asset Based Community Development model as a means to empower local leadership to make choices for their own communities. International case studies of small and large community efforts, micro and macro enterprise, and business, non-profit (NGO) and governmental based approaches will be analyzed.

**PRM 609 Church Planting** (3 or 4 Credits)

Starting new churches and launching new faith communities has taken on new meaning as the cultures of our world converge upon our cities. This seminar explores ways that congregations initiate ministry, clarify values while gathering and building a core team. Other topics include marriage and family issues for the leaders, budgeting and financing options and developing a one year plan. ♣

**PRM 610 Personal Gifts and Calling** (3 or 4 Credits)

To provide leadership, the Christian must understand their gifts and calling. This course explores the unique call on each Christian, how they work and avenues to express their calling. ♣

**PRM 611 Global Youth Trends** (3 or 4 Credits)

The secret is out. Youth around the world are adopting a common language. The language of the media shapes the world view. A static world view is obsolete. Elders have lost their ability to control. Governments have lost their power, while movements flourish. This course will explore the issue of global youth trends. ♣

**PRM 617 Worship & Communication in the Emerging Church** (3 or 4 Credits)

Worship and preaching among people who have suspicions of logical arguments, don't hold modern worldviews, and don't equate the Bible with 'truth' requires new approaches. Through exploring ancient/future approaches, this course provides both underlying theologies, as well as concrete ways to dramatically improve communications in emerging cultures. ♣

**SFM 601 Spiritual Formation Practice & Theology** (3 or 4 Credits)

This course explores the place of spiritual formation in the development of a leader. Historical, sociological, biblical and personal spiritual formation is explored as a normal Christian practice. ♣

*All SMI courses are offered in conjunction with Seattle Ministry Institute.*

**SMI 601 Spiritual Disciplines** (3 or 4 Credits)

Regardless of position and experience, a Christian's spiritual life is always the center from which he or she ministers to God and others. In this foundational course, students will have the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding and practice of basic Christian

disciplines, such as prayer, worship, Bible reading, fasting, intercession, spiritual warfare, study habits, hermeneutics, spiritual gifts, and divine guidance.

**SMI 602 Philosophy of Ministry** (3 or 4 Credits)

For effective, long-term influence a leader must have a clear and concise guiding philosophy. This provides the basis for answering the questions of why we do what we do. This becomes the lens through which decisions are made in every area of life, calling and pastoral work, and ultimately how success is understood and best achieved. This course will provide a practical laboratory for developing a workable and dynamic personal philosophy of ministry.

**SMI 603 Pastoral Care** (3 or 4 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to develop effective pastoral care skills. We live in a time when people's spiritual, personal, and social issues are increasing in complexity. This course allows students to become acquainted with biblical approaches to caring ministry and assists them in developing objective referral criteria.

**SMI 604 Preaching & Communication** (3 or 4 Credits)

The ability to communicate is a key element of effective leadership. To develop excellent written and verbal communication skills, this course will allow the student to become familiar with biblical and contemporary models of effective communication, as well as assist them in developing their own unique style.

**SMI 605 Life Management** (3 or 4 Credits)

Managing our lives according to Biblical principles is essential to long-term, effective ministry. Public ministry places unique demands on our emotions, physical health, and our spiritual life. This course is designed to provide a paradigm to help organize our lives to meet these demands.

**SMI 606 Leadership Development** (3 or 4 Credits)

To cultivate people skills that inspire, affirm, serve, and motivate, we will become acquainted with various leadership styles and patterns modeled in the Bible and adapted to various ministry situations. The leadership style of Jesus Christ will be thoroughly examined.

**THE 601 Introduction to Global Urban Ministry** (3 credits)

This introductory course is an overview in which the topics, philosophy, theology and perspectives of global urban ministry by practitioners in the field many of whom are the faculty, along with an infrastructure for support and accountability will be introduced.

**THE 605 Old Testament: A Narrative Theology** (3 or 4 Credits)

In this course, grand themes of the Old Testament Scriptures will be explored with an intentional global and contextual reading. The student will wrestle with ancient themes and seek to build a hermeneutical bridge to their own context of ministry.

**THE 606 New Testament: A Narrative Theology** (3 or 4 Credits)

This course seeks to capture the missional nature of the New Testament and moves students toward global and contextual application. The student will seek to build a hermeneutical bridge to their own context of ministry.

**THE 611 Applied Biblical Interpretation** (3 or 4 Credits)

Reading and studying Scripture for real life application is the impetus for this course. This course helps students access tools for exegeting the original context while building an interpretive bridge to their contemporary context.

**THS 650 Master's Final Project** (3 or 4 Credits)

The Master's Final Project is the final paper following MTS course work. The student is expected to draw together their course work, reading and ministry experiences into one cohesive paper. Supervisors are approved by the Academic Affairs Committee.

**THS 651 Philosophy of Ministry Project** (3 or 4 Credits)

It is the objective of this course to help students integrate their spiritual journey, leadership experiences, academic achievement and book reviews into a working Philosophy of Ministry document for lifelong learning. The written work will be evaluated for integration of life and ministry, creative expression and scholarship.

**TOW 601-A Foundations in Theology of Work** (3 or 4 credits)

This course explores the meaning and ministry of work which engages people for most of their waking hours. The approach taken is *biblical* – surveying and meaning of work in God's revealed purpose; *contextual* – understanding how world-views and specific cultures affect one's work ethic and provide both points of content and a prophetic challenges; *integrative* – exploring how work is related to ministry, calling, mission and the phenomenon of globalization; and *theological* – undertaking the understanding of, and practice of work in the light of the timeless Word of God and the contemporary situation. Having a theology of work is critical both for those people engaged in a societal occupation and also for pastors, whose primary challenge of equipping the saints includes empowering people for the primary arena of their service to God in the world.

**TOW 601-B Theology of Work – Making Sense of the Other Six Days** (3 or 4 credits)

This course explores the meaning and ministry of work which engages people for most of their waking hours. The approach taken is *biblical* – surveying and meaning of work in God's revealed purpose; *contextual* – understanding how world-views and specific cultures affect one's work ethic and provide both points of content and a prophetic challenges; *integrative* – exploring how work is related to ministry, calling, mission and the phenomenon of globalization; and *theological* – undertaking the understanding of, and practice of work in the light of the timeless Word of God and the contemporary situation. Having a theology of work is critical both for those people engaged in a societal occupation and also for pastors, whose primary challenge of equipping the saints includes empowering people for the primary arena of their service to God in the world.

**TOW 602 Spirituality & Work – Taking Your Soul to Work** (3 or 4 credits)

This course will explore the integration of spirituality and work (business, trades, professions, volunteer service and public service). In contrast with the dualistic approach (the upper level for the contemplative and the lower for the person engaging in a societal occupation) and the compartmentalization of Sunday from Monday, a fully biblical spiritual theology will be discovered as both applied and practical. The course will consider various approaches to integration, and the rich and diverse traditions of spirituality in the history of the people of God, especially the "mixed life." Further, issues raised in the workplace – success, ethics, failure, drivenness, ambition, and creativity – will be seen as opportunities to become a deeper person and to grow in faith, thus demonstrating that the journey inward and the journey outward are interdependent.

**TOW 603 Marketplace Ministry: The Ethics, Spirituality and Theology of Human Enterprise** (3 or 4 credits)

This course will help people develop a biblical foundation for their life in the marketplace whether they are in leadership or not. Integrating values into everyday life, developing governing commitments, developing a framework for ethical decision-making and

discovering spiritual disciplines for the marketplace, are themes that will be explored. Participants will gain transferable concepts and ideas that can help them make a difference in the work world.

**TOW 604** Workplace Ethics- Engaging Moral Issues in the Marketplace (3 or 4 credits)

This course is a study of a Christian ethics grounded in the Decalogue and the Sermon on the Mount. The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes will be interpreted and applied as instruction in the key ways of loving God, loving our neighbor, pursuing justice, and promoting life and freedom. The Law and the Gospel are inextricably together in this great covenant between God and his people. Case studies in ethical issues will be explored as a hands-on method of engaging morally complex situations in the day-to-day work world. The course will explore integrity and vocational holiness in the workplace.

**TOW 605** Liberating the Laity: Empowering the Whole People of God (3 or 4 credits)

Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph 4:11-12) is a fundamental mandate for church and parachurch leaders. Therefore this course will explore models of Christian ministry that empower the whole people of God for ministry in the church and the world. Central to this is the exploration of the theology of the laity (*laos*) and leadership, discipleship ministries, education for the formation of mature Christians, workplace ministry, the spirituality of everyday life, and the body-life or systemic approach to learning and equipping.

**USC 601** Introduction to Relief (3 credits)

Equips the leader to offer direct service interventions for specific high-risk populations.

**USC 602** Introduction to Development (3 credits)

Equips the leader to develop transformational organizations that serve high-risk communities.

**USC 603** Introduction to Advocacy (3 credits)

Equips the leader to seek the shalom of the city by advocating for systemic change on behalf of the least, lost, and last.

**USC 604** The City, Church & Housing (3 or 4 Credits)

This course will challenge students to integrate their faith with where they live, work and worship. A theology of housing, community transformation and place will be explored and their relationship to gangs, violence, racism, housing affordability, traffic, climate change along with theological frameworks that either help or hinder healthy communities. Students will compare biblical and US land use legislation, models of community transformation and housing affordability that bring hope and healing to the most vulnerable, while developing leaders, faith and growth within the local church.