



## Th.M. Degree Information

### Curriculum

A total of twenty-four credits is required for the Th.M. degree. If the candidate wishes to present a research paper or thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirement, it shall be assigned six credits. Courses ordinarily must be taken in the area of the department in which the candidate is specializing. However, the student may be permitted to take courses in other areas of the department, or in areas of other departments, if in the judgment of the faculty adviser these courses are related to the student's field of concentration. Th.M. candidates choose to concentrate on one of the following areas, which are organized under five broad categories:

- 1) Biblical Studies
  - Old Testament
  - New Testament
- 2) History and Ecumenics
  - Church History
  - Mission, Ecumenics, History of Religion (MEHR)
- 3) Theology
  - Philosophy and Theology
  - Christian Ethics
  - Systematic Theology
- 4) Practical Theology
  - Education and Formation
  - Pastoral Care
  - Preaching
  - Worship Studies
- 5) Religion and Society

The candidate who seeks the degree without the presentation of a thesis is expected to pursue one or two courses that will require the writing of an essay or essays that give evidence of ability to engage in research, and to present his or her investigation in an acceptable literary and academic form. Each candidate will be assigned an adviser. Candidates will arrange their programs of study in consultation with their advisers, and in accordance with the programs developed for their chosen areas of study. As a rule, introductory-level courses may not be chosen for credit toward the Th.M. degree. In special cases, the student's adviser may give permission for selecting such courses, provided the instructor will give special assignments in accordance with the requirements for the Th.M. degree.

The candidate must spend a minimum of one year in residence and should, within that period, normally complete all courses and the research paper or thesis (where applicable). Candidates must attain an average of 2.70 (B minus) or better in order to qualify for the Th.M. degree. In view of this restriction,

they may not choose to have their work evaluated on a Pass/D/Fail basis.

### **Faculty Adviser and Adviser Requests**

The registrar assigns faculty advisers according to the student's area of concentration. In the mid to late summer, the Registrar will send each candidate a personal email with your Faculty Adviser assignment. Faculty are generally away for the summer, so most Th.M. adviser appointments will be held during the Fall orientation in September. Students may contact their Faculty adviser via email to schedule an individual appointment.

### **Academic Calendar**

There are two semesters, Fall and Spring, and a two-week January term. The Fall Semester concludes before the Christmas recess. The January term is totally optional and you may or may not choose to take a course during that time. Only a few courses are offered.

### **Full-time Study**

The completion of 24 credit hours is required for the Th.M. degree. In order to be full-time, students are required to register for 12 credits in the fall and spring semesters. Spring registration will take place in November.

### **Part-Time Study**

You need to notify the Registrar if you plan to complete your program on a part-time basis. (She will assume that you are full-time.) Part-time students must take a minimum of one course (3 credits) per semester.

### **Course Levels and Limited Enrollment Courses**

Th.M. students are not permitted to take 1000 and 2000 introductory level courses. (See Curriculum above.) This also includes all language courses. Such courses will not fulfill credits toward the Th.M. degree. 5000 level courses are designed for advanced M.Div. students and Th.M. students. Th.M. students may also enroll in 3000 and 4000 level courses. Even though continuing students have already registered for Fall Semester limited enrollment courses, a few spots have been reserved for entering Th.M. students. If you wish to enroll in a limited enrollment course in your area of concentration and there are no spots available online, please email [registrar@ptsem.edu](mailto:registrar@ptsem.edu) for placement in the course. Of the eight courses (24 credits), at least half of your courses, four of them (12 credits) must be taken in your area of concentration. With the approval of the assigned faculty adviser, students may take courses outside their area of specialization/concentration. (See Curriculum above.)

### **Thesis**

Many Th.M. students choose to complete a thesis during the academic year. (See above under Curriculum.) The thesis is six (6) credits and is taken over two semesters with the final thesis paper due at the end of the Spring Semester. Special course/thesis forms are available on the Registrar's website. Students are to consult with their Faculty adviser for further information regarding a thesis. (Th.M. students may do a thesis with a faculty person who is not the assigned Th.M. adviser.)

### **GPA and Pass/D/Fail Option**

Th.M. students must maintain a minimum of 2.70 GPA or higher, in order to make satisfactory progress and must have a 2.70 GPA or higher in order to graduate. Th.M. students are not permitted to choose the Pass/D/Fail option for any courses. If a course is offered on the Pass/D/Fail basis, the Th.M. student must request to take it for a letter grade. However, if the course is offered ONLY as a Pass/D/Fail course, then Th.M. students may take it on that basis.