

# MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

## **Introduction**

The program leading to the degree of Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is open to any qualified student who has a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. This program is designed primarily for students who seek graduate study of the various disciplines of Orthodox theology, but who are not candidates for ordination in the Orthodox Church. The program may serve as part of the preparation for further studies in theology or religion. The program requires a minimum of two years of full-time study.

### *Program Learning Outcomes*

- Articulate and illustrate the Orthodox Christian tradition in its defining elements
- Display focused knowledge in one of the disciplines of theology.
- Demonstrate an ability to use at least two theological disciplines in framing a response to a historical or contemporary issue or problem.

As part of the Master of Theological Studies Program at Holy Cross, students are required to write an Integrative Academic Essay that serves as a capstone to their theological education. The MTS Integrative Academic Essay gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to integrate various sources of the Orthodox theological tradition in conversation with contemporary concerns. The essay is used as a learning tool, to assist students in synthesizing the various aspects of their theological education prior to graduation. It is also an assessment tool providing evidence of the extent to which students have achieved the goals of the degree program, and of the extent to which Holy Cross has met the goals for teaching and learning in the MTS program.

Students submit their Integrative Academic Essay during the final semester of the MTS degree program. To facilitate the completion of the essay, students will register for the MTS Integrative Essay course, INDS 7050 (1.5 credits) during their final semester. Students must submit their essay to their academic advisor by November 15 for fall completers, and by April 15 for spring completers. Further details regarding the

Integrative Academic Essay are available in the Office of the Dean and the Office of the Registrar.

The Master of Theological Studies degree is awarded to students in regular standing who have satisfactorily completed the two-year course of study with an average grade not lower than C (2.0). The MTS program consists of 49.5 credit hours of coursework, including 8 required courses (24 credits) and, 4 area electives (12 credits), 4 general electives (12 credits), and the Integrative Academic Essay (1.5 credits).

## *Masters of Theological Studies*

### Semester I (Fall)

Intro to Old Testament	3 cr.
Church History I <i>or</i> Elective	3 cr.
Patrology	3 cr.
Elective*	3 cr.

Total: 12 cr.

### Semester II (Spring)

Ecumenism/World Religions	3 cr.
Church History II <i>or</i> Elective*	3 cr.
Liturgics	3 cr.
Area Elective	3 cr.

Total: 12 cr.

### Semester III (Fall)

Intro to New Testament	3 cr.
Dogmatics I	3 cr.
Area Elective	3 cr.
Elective	3 cr.

Total: 12 cr.

### Semester IV (Spring)

Dogmatics II	3 cr.
Elective	3 cr.
Area Elective	3 cr.
Area Elective	3 cr.
Integrative Academic Essay	1.5 cr.

Total: 13.5 cr.

## **Total Credits: 49.5**

\* Students are required to take either Church History I or Church History II.

NB: A student who already has a Master of Theological Studies degree from Holy Cross and who wishes to enroll in the Master of Divinity degree program may receive a maximum of 24 credits advanced standing towards fulfillment of the Master of Divinity degree requirements. In consultation with the faculty, the Dean will determine which requirements would still need to be satisfied. A minimum additional residency of one and one-half years is also required.

