

MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity degree (MDiv) is the preferred graduate degree in theology for those interested in all forms of ministry in Church and society, and especially for those preparing for ordination in the Orthodox Church. The program is open to qualified students who have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. The program is designed primarily for students who are preparing for ordination or other expressions of ministry in the Orthodox Church, giving students a foundation in both academic theological disciplines and practical ministry through field education. Consequently, this program of study is required for students preparing for ordination in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and is strongly recommended for students who are preparing for ordination in other Orthodox jurisdictions. Applicants who are preparing for ordination (seminarians) and who have recently joined the Orthodox Church are expected to have spent a minimum of two years living an active life in an Orthodox parish community prior to enrolling in the MDiv program. In addition, other students are encouraged to enroll who are not candidates for ordination (non-seminarians) but who desire to obtain a professional degree in pastoral ministry.

The degree of Master of Divinity is awarded to regular students in good standing who have satisfactorily completed the course of study with an average grade not lower than C (2.0), and these requirements:

- A minimum number of credit hours as required by the particular version of the MDiv program in which a student is enrolled
- Supervised field education as prescribed by the faculty
- One elective in the area of ecumenical studies or in a religious tradition other than the Orthodox Christian tradition
- If elected, the successful completion of a thesis in accordance with the "Guide for the Preparation of the MDiv Thesis." A copy of the guide may be obtained from the director of the MDiv thesis program. This replaces 6 credit hours of electives.

There are three categories of students in the MDiv program. These are outlined below, together with their particular version(s) of the MDiv program.

MDiv Learning Outcomes

1. Understand and articulate in a pastorally sensitive manner the Orthodox tradition in its biblical, patristic, dogmatic, canonical, ethical, and missionary aspects with an ecumenical sensitivity, an awareness of the present realities of life, and commitment to the Church.
2. Identify and analyze the issues involved in various dimensions of pastoral ministry by incorporating learned practical competencies, spiritual integration, and theological reflection.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of, and sensitivity and faithfulness to the Church's liturgical life and become faithful liturgists.
4. Develop a theological mind grounded in a critical and ecclesial interpretation of theological texts, contemporary thought, and materials, with faithfulness to their historical and linguistic context and the challenges of a global world.
5. Demonstrate the skills needed to be an effective teacher, catechist, pastoral preacher, and collaborative leader.

Seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

Seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese are admitted to one of two versions of the MDiv program according to their qualifications. Those who are graduates of the Religious Studies seminarian track program of Hellenic College enroll in a three-year program, while those who have received their bachelor's degrees from other institutions enroll in the four-year program. The difference lies in certain courses, which graduates of Hellenic College will already have had, but which are unlikely to have been taken by graduates of other schools. These courses include New Testament Greek, Modern Greek (which fulfills an important pastoral need within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese), Byzantine music, and introductory courses in the Old and New Testaments.

Seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese are required, in addition, to fulfill the following:

- Take a voice review during orientation and at least one semester of voice class before graduating.
- Participate in the Holy Week Seminar during the student's first year of study.
- Participate in the St. Helen's Pilgrimage and Study Abroad program, which is normally held at the end of the student's middler year.
- Participate in the Archdiocesan Seminar held at the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in New York City during the spring semester of the senior year.

Modern Greek Language Requirements for GOA

Modern Greek language preparation is a central element in training for ordained ministry in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. To that end, non-native Greek-speaking seminarians complete 24 credits in Modern Greek language instruction regardless of their knowledge of Modern Greek at the time of matriculation. The typical course of study is as follows:

Beginning Modern Greek I-II	12 cr.
Intermediate Modern Greek I-II	6 cr.

Proficiency exams offered each spring will determine whether students have attained the necessary degree of competence to move to the next level of Greek, or whether a remedial course is required first. Students with prior knowledge of Modern Greek will take a placement exam to determine at what level their studies begin, and they will continue their studies in domain-specific courses (e.g., culture, literature, history, post-advanced level language courses).

Master of Divinity – Three-Year Program

For seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese who are graduates of the Hellenic College Religious Studies A Program

Semester I (Fall)		Semester II (Spring)	
Year 1			
Church History I	3 cr.	Church History II	3 cr.
Liturgical Greek	3 cr.	Liturgics	3 cr.
Patrology	3 cr.	Old Testament Exegesis	3 cr.
Religious Education*	3 cr.	Youth Ministry*	3 cr.
Byzantine Music VII	1.5 cr.	Byzantine Music VIII	1.5 cr.
Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.	Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.
Voice Class	.5 cr.		
	15 cr.		14.5 cr.
Year 2			
Dogmatics I	3 cr.	Dogmatics II	3 cr.
Pastoral Care I*	3 cr.	Pastoral Care II	3 cr.
Ethics	3 cr.	Social Ministries*	3 cr.
Elective	3 cr.	New Testament Exegesis	3 cr.
Elective	3 cr.	Ecumenical Patriarchate	3 cr.
	15 cr.		15 cr.
Year 3			
Canon Law	3 cr.	Ecumenism/World Religions	3 cr.
Parish Leadership and Administration I*	3 cr.	Parish Leadership and Administration II*	3 cr.
Preaching	3 cr.	Preaching Practicum	0 cr.
Teleturgics I	1.5 cr.	Teleturgics II	1.5 cr.
Thesis or elective	3 cr.	Thesis or Elective	3 cr.
Elective	3 cr.	Elective	3 cr.
	16.5 cr.	Elective	3 cr.
			16.5 cr.

Total Credits 92.5

Preaching is a single course offered in two segments. The first consists of classroom instruction in the fall semester, and the second involves the final preparation and public delivery of the sermon during the spring semester. The letter grade for this three-credit course is given at the end of the spring semester.

**This is also a Field Education course and includes a site placement.*

Master of Divinity – Four Year Program

For seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

Semester I (Fall)		Semester II (Spring)	
Year 1			
Old Testament Introduction	3 cr.	Old Testament Exegesis	3 cr.
Biblical Greek I	3 cr.	Biblical Greek II	3 cr.
Church History I	3 cr.	Church History II	3 cr.
Patrology	3 cr.	Liturgics	3 cr.
Byzantine Music I	1.5 cr.	Byzantine Music II	1.5 cr.
Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.	Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.
		Voice Class	.5 cr.
	14.5 cr.		15.0 cr.
Year 2			
New Testament Introduction	3 cr.	New Testament Exegesis	3 cr.
Dogmatics I	3 cr.	Dogmatics II	3 cr.
Religious Education*	3 cr.	Youth Ministry*	3 cr.
Intensive Beginning	6 cr.	Intensive Beginning	6 cr.
Modern Greek I		Modern Greek II	
Byzantine Music III	1.5 cr.	Byzantine Music IV	1.5 cr.
	16.5 cr.		16.5 cr.
Year 3			
Ethics	3 cr.	Ecumenical Patriarchate	3 cr.
Pastoral Care I*	3 cr.	Pastoral Care II	3 cr.
Liturgical Greek	3 cr.	Social Ministries*	3 cr.
Intermediate Modern Greek I	3 cr.	Intermediate Modern Greek II	3 cr.
Byzantine Music V	1.5 cr.	Service Rubrics	1.5 cr.
Elective	3 cr.	Elective	3 cr.
	16.5 cr.		16.5 cr.
Year 4			
Canon Law	3 cr.	Ecumenism/World Religions	3 cr.
Parish Leadership and Administration I *	3 cr.	Parish Leadership and Administration II	3 cr.
Preaching	3 cr.	Preaching Practicum	0 cr.
Advanced Modern Greek I	3 cr.	Advanced Modern Greek II	3 cr.
Teleturgics I	1.5 cr.	Teleturgics II	1.5 cr.
Thesis or elective	3 cr.	Thesis or elective	3 cr.
	16.5 cr.		13.5 cr.

Total Credits 125.5

Preaching is a single course offered in two segments. The first consists of classroom instruction in the fall semester, and the second involves the final preparation and public delivery of the sermon during the spring semester. The letter grade for this 3 credit course is given at the end of the spring semester.

**This is also a Field Education course and includes a site placement.*

Master of Divinity – Antiochian Archdiocese Seminarians

Antiochian Archdiocese seminarians complete the basic three-year program with requirements in language and liturgical practice appropriate to their jurisdiction. All incoming seminarians are required to take a voice review during orientation and at least one semester of voice class before graduation, and to participate in the Holy Week Seminar during their first year of study.

Semester I (Fall)		Semester II (Spring)	
Year 1			
Old Testament Introduction	3 cr.	Old Testament Exegesis	3 cr.
Church History I	3 cr.	Church History II	3 cr.
Patrology	3 cr.	Liturgics	3 cr.
Religious Education*	3 cr.	Youth Ministry*	3 cr.
Beginning Arabic I	1.5 cr.	Beginning Arabic II	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Music I	1.5 cr.	Ecclesiastical Chant I	1.5 cr.
Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.	Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.
Voice Class	.5 cr.		
	16.5		16
Year 2			
New Testament Introduction	3 cr.	New Testament Exegesis	3 cr.
Biblical Greek I	3 cr.	Biblical Greek II	3 cr.
Dogmatics I	3 cr.	Dogmatics II	3 cr.
Pastoral Care I*	3 cr.	Pastoral Care II	3 cr.
Intermediate Arabic I	1.5 cr.	Intermediate Arabic II	1.5 cr.
Ecclesiastical Chant II	1.5 cr.	Ecclesiastical Chant III	1.5 cr.
Elective	3 cr.	Social Ministries	3 cr.
	18		18
Year 3			
Canon Law	3 cr.	Ecumenicism/World Religions	3 cr.
Preaching	3 cr.	Preaching Practicum	0 cr.
Ethics	3 cr.	Advanced Arabic II	3 cr.
Advanced Arabic I	1.5 cr.	Teleturgics II	1.5 cr.
Teleturgics I	1.5 cr.	Thesis or Elective	3 cr.
Thesis or Elective	3 cr.	Elective	3 cr.
	15		13.5
Total Credits		97	

Preaching is a single course offered in two segments. The first consists of classroom instruction in the fall semester, and the second involves the final preparation and public delivery of the sermon during the spring semester. The letter grade for this three-credit course is given at the end of the spring semester.

**This is also a Field Education course and includes a site placement.*

Master of Divinity – Seminarians of Other Jurisdictions and Candidates for Lay Ministry

Seminarians of other jurisdictions follow the program below. They may be required to take courses in liturgical practices appropriate to their jurisdictions. Additionally, all incoming seminarians are required to take a voice review during orientation and at least one semester of voice class before graduation, and to participate in the Holy Week Seminar during their first year of study.

This program is also designed for male and female students whose future plans relate to Church ministry in both its theological and its pastoral dimensions as these pertain, for example, to various parish ministries, hospital work, or counseling.

Semester I (Fall)		Semester II (Spring)	
Year 1			
Old Testament	3 cr.	Old Testament	3 cr.
Introduction		Exegesis	
Biblical Greek I	3 cr.	Biblical Greek II	3 cr.
Church History I	3 cr.	Church History II	3 cr.
Patrology	3 cr.	Liturgics	3 cr.
Religious Education*	3 cr.	Youth Ministry*	3 cr.
Byzantine Music I	1.5 cr.	Ecclesiastical Chant I	1.5 cr.
Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.	Orthodox Ethos	1 cr.
		Voice Class	.5 cr.
	17.5 cr.		18 cr.
Year 2			
New Testament	3 cr.	New Testament	3 cr.
Introduction		Exegesis	
Dogmatics I	3 cr.	Dogmatics II	3 cr.
Pastoral Care I*	3 cr.	Pastoral Care II	3 cr.
Ethics	3 cr.	Social Ministries*	3 cr.
Ecclesiastical Chant II	1.5 cr.	Ecclesiastical Chant	1.5 cr.
		III	
Elective	3 cr.	Elective	3 cr.
	16.5 cr.		16.5 cr.
Year 3			
Canon Law	3 cr.	Ecumenism/World	3 cr.
		Religions	
Parish Leadership and	3 cr.	Parish Leadership	3 cr.
Administration I*		and Administration	
		II*	
Preaching	3 cr.	Preaching Practicum	0 cr.
Thesis or Elective	3 cr.	Thesis or Elective	3 cr.
Elective	3 cr.	Elective	3 cr.
		Elective	3 cr.
	15 cr.		15 cr.

Total Credits 98.5

Preaching is a single course offered in two segments. The first consists of classroom instruction in the fall semester, and the second involves the final preparation and public delivery of the sermon during the spring semester. The letter grade for this three-credit course is given at the end of the spring semester.

**This is also a Field Education course and includes a site placement.*