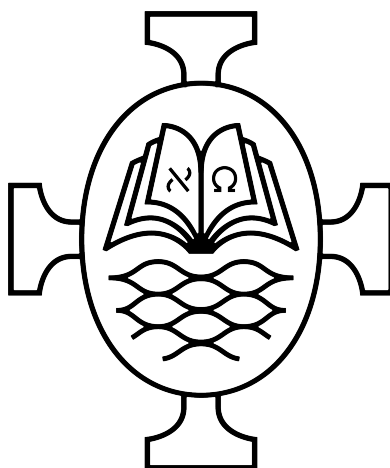
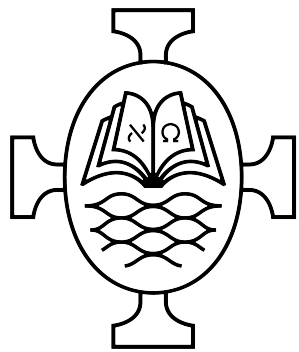


Oahu Theological Seminary

2024–2025 Academic Catalogue



‘O Iesū ka mana‘olana o nā mokupuni



Oahu
Theological
Seminary

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Aloha!

Oahu Theological Seminary exists to glorify God by immersing students in the Holy Scriptures as understood by the historical orthodox creeds and reformational confessions in order to faithfully serve the church in Hawaii, the Pacific Rim, and across the world. We begin and end with God and his glory, and we believe that God's glory is on display in the Holy Scriptures as they teach us about Jesus Christ and the gospel. We truly want all students who are a part of our school to be deeply immersed in the Scripture as they take classes in Greek, Hebrew, and various theological topics in such a way that their instincts and intuition is shaped by the story of Scripture and their place in it.

However, we don't believe that any of us can or should interpret the Scripture on our own. Through the centuries, the Lord has gifted his church with faithful pastors and teachers who help us understand what is central in the Holy Scripture. We stand without apology on the ecumenical creeds from the earliest centuries of the church as well as the reformational confessions from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries because we recognize that we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. Theology, after all, is best practiced in communion with the saints, both past and present.

Finally, we recognize that the seminary only exists as a servant of the church. We are very intentionally linked to local churches on Oahu and have designed most of our courses to have projects that can only be completed in the context of the local church. Students are also involved in church-based service and ministry during every semester. In short, we aim for every part of our seminary to submit to and serve local church leadership. As we seek to serve churches on Oahu, our hope is that other Hawaiian islands, other Pacific Islands, and the Pacific Rim will be better equipped to know and proclaim the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

We pray that you will consider joining us as we seek to advance the cause of Christ for the life of the world in Hawaii and across the world.

Serving Christ with you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bruno', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chris Bruno, President

§1. Introduction

The *Course Catalogue* for Oahu Theological Seminary (OTS hereafter) serves as a guide to the vision, confession(s) of faith, requirements for the faculty, staff, and students, as well as academic information regarding the program's plan and distinctives, course descriptions, and financial matters. Other elements of this *Catalogue* include board and faculty members as well as partnering and supporting churches.

§2. Vision of OTS

In close partnership with local congregations in the islands, our goal is to glorify God by immersing students in the Holy Scriptures as understood by the historical orthodox creeds and reformational confessions in order to faithfully serve the church in Hawaii, the Pacific Rim, and across the world.

§3. Mission Statement

Partnering with churches to train leaders for the islands.

§4. Confession(s) of Faith

Given the broad nature of OTS in its reformational vein and given its commitment to traditional Christianity, faculty members of OTS are required to affirm the Christian faith.

4.1 CLASSICAL CREEDS

In particular, faculty members must affirm, adhere, and teach the doctrine of *all* these major, traditional creeds of Christianity:

- *Apostles' Creed*
- *Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed*
- *Athanasian Creed*
- *Chalcedonian Definition*

4.2 REFORMATIONAL CONFESSIONS

In addition to affirming all the creeds noted above (§4.1), faculty must also affirm at least *one* of the following Reformational Confessions:

- *Belgic Confession of Faith*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith*
- *39 Articles of Religion*
- *Second London Baptist Confession*

Faculty members may be allowed to have reservation(s), comment(s), and/or disagreements with the confession they hold to at the discretion and permission of the board of directors.

4.3 STATEMENT ON GENDER & SEXUALITY

In addition to affirming all the creeds noted above (§4.1) as well as at least one of the reformational confessions (§4.2), faculty members must affirm, adhere, and teach in line with the following statement on gender and sexuality:

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person in his image as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26–27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive covenantal union in order to point to the covenantal union between Christ and the church (Gen. 2:18–25; Eph. 5:31–33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2–5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, transgender behavior, polyamorous behavior, bisexual conduct, sexual abuse, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18–20; 1 Cor 6:9–10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Oahu Theological Seminary (OTS) as a servant to faithful Christian churches on Oahu and to provide a biblical role model to students of the seminary and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by OTS in any capacity, including the board of directors, or who serve in any capacity at the seminary, paid or unpaid, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14–16; 1 Thess. 5:22). Non-teaching contract work is exempt from being required to affirm this statement.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19–21; Rom. 10:9–10; 1 Cor. 6:9–11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28–31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture and the culture of OTS.

§5. Board of Directors

OTS is governed by a board of directors who are responsible for establishing the mission of the institution. It is composed of faithful Christians who affirm our confessional standards:

- Garrett Bonner, *Pastor of The Refuge Church Kōōlauloa*
- Mark Brians, *Rector of All Saints Church*
- Chris Bruno, *President of Oahu Theological Seminary*
- James Curry, *Elder at Kailua Baptist Church*
- John Kim, *Pastor of City Church Honolulu*
- Landon Miller, *Pastor of Aiea Heights Church*
- Benjamin Moore, *Program Director at St. Benedict Hall*

§6. Faculty Members

All OTS faculty members must affirm the four major creeds in §4.1 as well as one reformational confession listed in §4.2 and the statement on Gender & Sexuality in §4.3. Faculty members must not only affirm, but also teach the material content of §4.1 and §4.3 in their respective courses and can teach according to conscience in line with one confession in §4.2.

- Chris Bruno, Ph.D., Wheaton College, Professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology
- J. R. Cuevas, D.Min., The Masters Seminary, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology
- Cody Irwin, Th.M., Bethlehem College & Seminary, Lecturer in Theology and Biblical Studies
- David Larson, Th.M., Bethlehem College & Seminary, Lecturer in Theology
- Todd Morikawa, Ph.D. (cand.), The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Assistant Professor of Historical Theology

§7. OTS Distinctives

OTS is an intentionally reformed and catholic institution, committed to teaching the Christian faith as handed down by the prophets and apostles in Holy Scripture and guarded by the Great Tradition for the sake of God's glory among the churches throughout the Pacific Islands. Because we recognize that the church is the institution that the Lord Jesus himself established and the context in which pastors and other church leaders are equipped and recognized, we are deeply committed to partner and collaborate with local congregations. During every semester, students are required to have significant ministry involvement in the church through the Applied Theology courses.

§8. Degree(s) Offered

OTS offers three formal degrees: M.A. in Ecclesial Theology, a M.Div., and a Th.M. The M.A. degree consists of 51 credits and can be completed in two years. The M.Div. degree can be pursued in an additional two years with 42 credits extra (total 93 credits). The Th.M. is a research degree (20 credits) that involves some coursework and the completion and defense of a thesis. Additionally, for those who have

not received a college (bachelors) degree or higher or those who cannot make the commitment for a masters degree can pursue and earn a certificate in ecclesial theology in two years (27 credits).

8.1 MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN ECCLESIAL THEOLOGY

The M.A. focuses in typical areas of theological study, but emphasizes how such theological inquiry pays off and plays out in the life of the local church.

8.2 MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)

The M.Div. degree consists of 93 credits and can be completed in four years. The M.Div. degree is an added two years on the M.A. program. The latter two years will focus on advanced theological and pastoral-practical studies.

8.3 MASTER OF THEOLOGY (TH.M.)

Oahu Theological Seminary also offers a Th.M. degree (20 credits) for those who have (a) already completed a M.Div. degree, (b) have secured a faculty member (or other approved professor) as a supervisor, and (c) have a general thesis topic already in mind. After required coursework, the student will write a thesis of approximately 40,000 words and will be required to defend it.

8.4 CONCENTRATIONS

Both M.A. and M.Div. students have the option to designate a concentration in counseling, church planting, or youth and family ministry. In order to complete a concentration, students must devote all Applied Ministry courses, free electives, the applied theology capstone, and, for M.Div. students, the thesis capstone to the ministry concentration. For the M.A., the concentration amounts to nine (9) credit hours and the M.Div. provides an additional nine (9) credits in the concentration.

8.5 CERTIFICATE IN ECCLESIAL THEOLOGY

The Certificate in Theology and Ecclesiology consists of 27 credit hours and can be completed over the course of two years. The certificate is intended to equip lay leaders and teachers in the church for theological study in the life of the local church. No college degree is required to earn a certificate.

§9. Course Descriptions

The following description of courses provides the general layout, vision, objectives, and method of each course for each degree offered. The order in which the courses are listed are not necessarily the order the courses will be offered. Every course, with the exception of language courses, includes a church-based component that can only be fulfilled in the context of the student's local congregation.

9.1 MASTER OF ARTS IN ECCLESIAL THEOLOGY COURSES

The following courses are required to earn and receive the Master of Arts in Ecclesial Theology degree.

9.1.1 Language Courses

9.1.1.1 GREK 6001: *Beginning Greek 1* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will learn introductory matters to *koine* Greek or the Greek language of the New Testament. Such studies will include vocabulary, basic parts of speech, elementary principles of grammar and syntax, and components of the construction for Greek words.

9.1.1.2 GREK 6002: *Beginning Greek 2* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will continue to develop their knowledge from *Beginning Greek 1*, diving deeper and further into vocabulary, basic parts of speech, elementary principles of grammar and syntax, and components of the construction for Greek words.

9.1.1.3 GREK 6003: *Intermediate Greek* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will build upon what they learned in *Beginning Greek 1 & 2*, focusing more on the parts of speech and different uses of particular cases in *koine* Greek. Students will use this deeper knowledge of the Greek language for exegesis of biblical texts in order to make warranted theological conclusions.

9.1.1.4 GREK 6004: *Greek Exegesis* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will apply and use their skills and knowledge gained in *Beginning Greek 1 & 2* and *Intermediate Greek* in exegeting part of the New Testament. Students will also learn the peculiar aspects of the book's genre as it relates to biblical interpretation.

9.1.2 Theology Courses

9.1.2.1 OLDT 7001: *Old Testament Theology* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will work through the Old Testament to understand the background and message of each book.

9.1.2.2 NEWT 7002: *New Testament Theology* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will work through the New Testament to understand the background and message of each book.

9.1.2.3 THEO 7003: *Theology 1* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will study classical doctrines typically taught in systematic theology 1: prolegomena, God, creation, revelation, Scripture, man, and sin.

9.1.2.4 THEO 7004: *Theology 2* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will study classical doctrines typically taught in systematic theology 2: Christology, soteriology, and pneumatology.

9.1.2.5 HIST 7005: *History of the Church's Theology* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will study the church's history with special attention to the development and defense of doctrine according to its classical, orthodox teaching.

9.1.2.6 DIRS 7006: Directed Study | 3 Credits

In this course, students will choose an area of interest and find an OTS-approved supervisor to facilitate the directed study.

9.1.2.7 BIBT 7007: Biblical Theology | 3 Credits

In this course, students will study prominent themes in Scripture as well as pay close attention to redemptive history, the overall story of the Bible, and see how Jesus is the fulfillment and culmination of that redemptive storyline.

9.1.3 Ecclesial Courses**9.1.3.1 ECCL 5001: Ecclesial Theology | 3 Credits**

In this course, students will examine the biblical, theological, and historical foundations for ecclesial theology. Particular emphasis will be put on the vocation of a pastor as a theologian and apply this calling in the student's particular context.

9.1.3.2 APPT 5002-4: Applied Theology 1-3 | 1 Credit each (3 total)

In this course, students will seek to apply their classroom training in the context of ministry in the church through various practical ministry applications.

9.1.3.3 PLIT 5005: Polity & Liturgy | 3 Credits

In this course, students will be instructed within the context of their own church about the unique polity and liturgical practices of their church and denomination. Though the focus will be largely determined by the student's pastor, it will include both theological and philosophical and practical implementation of church polity and liturgy in the life of the church.

9.1.3.4 ACAP 5006: Applied Theology Capstone | 3 Credits

In this course, students will work with their pastor and local church to complete a teaching or preaching project. This could include a Sunday school class or seminar, a preaching series, or some other appropriate teaching setting.

9.2 MASTER OF DIVINITY COURSES

The following courses are required to earn and receive the Master of Divinity degree.

9.2.1 Language Courses**9.2.1.1 HEBR 6101: Hebrew 1 | 3 Credits**

In this course, students will learn the basics of biblical Hebrew. In particular, students will study vocabulary, basic parts of speech, and the components of Hebrew terminology.

9.2.1.2 HEBR 6102: Hebrew 2 | 3 Credits

In this course, students will continue in the basics of biblical Hebrew from *Hebrew 1*. In particular, students will study vocabulary, basic parts of speech, and the components of Hebrew terminology. Students will also learn how to employ exegetical skills in the Hebrew text.

9.2.1.3 HEBR 6103: Hebrew Exegesis | 3 Credits

In this course, students will apply and use what they learned in *Hebrew 1 & 2* (§§9.2.1.1–2) in order to exegete particular passages of the Old Testament.

9.2.2 Pastoral Courses**9.2.2.1 COUN 5101: Counseling 1 | 3 Credits**

In this course, students will learn the theology, methods for, and the goals of pastoral counseling in the context of the local church.

9.2.2.2 COUN 5102: Counseling 2 | 3 Credits

In this course, students will learn to apply methods and goals of pastoral counseling learned in *Counseling 1* (see §9.2.2.1) to specific and common issues in the human life.

9.2.2.3 PREA 5103: Preaching 1 | 3 Credits

In this course, students will learn the basics of Christian preaching in the context of the local church. Students will learn methods, preparation, tasks, and theology of preaching.

9.2.2.4 PREA 5104: Preaching 2 | 3 Credits

In this course, students will learn to apply what they learned in *Preaching 1* (see §9.2.2.3) and write numerous sermons of their own as well as preach in a local church.

9.2.2.5 DPAS 5105: The Daily Pastor | 3 Credits

In this course, students will work alongside a professor of OTS and an OTS approved local pastor to learn the basic and practical duties of the pastor as well as study the theology of the pastorate.

9.2.2.6 MISS 5106: Missions and the Local Church | 3 Credits

In this course, students will learn the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of the global missions movement and consider how local congregations and networks should be involved in the ongoing work of global discipleship and church planting.

9.2.3 Applied Ecclesial Courses**9.2.3.1 APPT 5107–9: Applied Theology 4–6 | 1 Credit each (3 total)**

In this course, students will seek to apply their classroom training in the context of ministry in the church through various practical ministry applications.

9.3.3 Theology Courses

9.3.3.1 *ADVB 7101: Advanced Biblical Studies* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will apply their theological training in their previous courses to dive deeper in biblical studies to focus more pointedly into the technicalities of OT, NT, and biblical-theological topics.

9.3.3.2 *ADVT 7102: Advanced Theological Studies* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will apply their theological training in their previous courses to dive deeper in theological studies to focus more pointedly into the technicalities of Christian dogmatics.

9.3.1.3 *CCCS 7103: Creeds, Confessions, & Catechisms* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will spend time focusing on the four major classical creeds (see §4.1) and dive deeper in their own specific tradition's confession(s) and catechism(s).

9.3.1.4 *TCAP 7104: Thesis Capstone* | 3 Credits

In this capstone course, students will prepare, write, and defend a Masters Thesis. The written thesis will be approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) words and will demonstrate thorough research, academic rigor, and a successful argument. Students must secure an OTS-approved supervisor holding a ThM or higher and have their thesis topic approved by the director of OTS and their thesis supervisor.

9.3.1.5 *DIRS 7105: Directed Study* | 3 Credits

In this course, students will choose an area of interest and find an OTS-approved supervisor to facilitate the directed study.

9.4 MASTER OF THEOLOGY COURSES

The following courses are required to earn and receive the Master of Theology degree.

9.4.1 Stage 1: Thesis Preparation

9.4.1.1 *RSEM 7201: Research Seminar* | 2 Credits

The student will take an academic approach to understanding elements, practices, and methods for studies in theology. This course will serve as the foundation for the Thesis Proposal, which in turn prepares the student for the completion of their thesis.

9.4.1.2 *TPRP 7202: Thesis Proposal* | 2 Credits

After completion of the Research Seminar, students will begin working under the supervision of an OTS-approved advisor. Students will write a proposal (approximately 8,000 words) that will (1) introduce the specific topic of the thesis, (2) offer a preliminary thesis statement, (3) survey the current field of scholarship on the subject, (2) give a detailed outline of each

chapter of the thesis, and (4) provide a bibliography of at least 25 academic sources. Once the thesis proposal is approved, the student can then begin working on their thesis.

9.5.1.2 THMC 7203-4: Theological Coursework 1-2 | 6 Credits

Students will take two (2) in-class courses with the other students in the institution. The courses taken by the student should be related to the thesis' field of study and must be approved by the thesis supervisor.

9.4.2 Stage 2: Thesis Writing

9.4.2.1 DIRS 7301-2: Directed Studies 1-2 | 4 Credits

Students will take two (2) directed studies pertinent to their thesis topic so as to make progress towards the completion of their thesis.

9.4.2.2 THES 7303: Thesis | 6 Credits

Students will write a graduate level Masters thesis (approximately 40,000 words) under the supervision of an OTS approved advisor, demonstrating careful, thoughtful, and academic research and argumentation that interacts with primary and secondary sources. In order to pass the thesis stage, students must (1) complete the writing process with the approval of the advisor, and (2) successfully defend the thesis from an external examiner.

§10. Program Plans

The previous courses in §9 will be completed in a span of two years. Course schedule and order is subject to change, but will generally follow these schedules (§§10.1-2):

§10.1 M.A. PROGRAM PLAN (46 CREDITS)

Year 1		Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning Greek 1 OT Theology NT Theology Applied Theology 1* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning Greek 2 Historical Theology Biblical Theology Applied Theology 2* Elective 1 (3 hrs)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate Greek Theology 1 Theology 2 Applied Theology 3* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greek Exegesis Ecclesial Theology Polity & Liturgy* Applied Theology Capstone*
* indicates course is to be taken in conjunction with and under supervision of the student's local church ** electives can be completed as directed studies, special course offerings, or through other institutions			

§10.2 M.DIV. PROGRAM PLAN (+43 CREDITS)

Year 3		Year 4	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew 1 • Counseling 1 • Preaching 1 • Applied Theology 4* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew 2 • Preaching 2 • Counseling 2 • Applied Theology 5* • Elective 2 (3 hrs)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew Exegesis • Advanced Biblical Studies • Advanced Theological Studies • Applied Theology 6* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creeds & Confessions • Missions • The Daily Pastor* • Thesis Capstone
* indicates course is to be taken in conjunction with and under supervision of the student's local church ** electives can be completed as directed studies, special course offerings, or through other institutions			

§10.3 MASTER OF THEOLOGY PLAN (20 CREDITS)

Year 1			Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theology Coursework 1• Theology Coursework 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Seminar• Thesis Proposal*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directed Study*• Directed Study*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis Writing & Defense*	
* indicates course is to be taken independently in a self-directed manner				

§10.4 CERTIFICATE IN ECCLESIAL THEOLOGY PLAN (27 CREDITS)

Year 1		Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OT Theology • NT Theology • Applied Theology 1* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Theology • Biblical Theology • Applied Theology 2* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology 1 • Theology 2 • Applied Theology 3* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecclesial Theology • Polity & Liturgy*
* indicates course is to be taken in conjunction with and under supervision of the student's local church			

§11. Financial Matters

For the 2024-25 academic year, OTS courses will be \$300/credit.

§12. Partner Churches

Through its board members, Oahu Theological Seminary is in happy cooperation with Aiea Heights Church, All Saints Anglican Church, Christ the Foundation Anglican Church, City Church Honolulu, Kailua Baptist Church, and The Refuge Church Ko'olauloa. Additionally, OTS partners closely with The Gospel Coalition Hawai'i chapter and its affiliated churches.

\$13. Contact Info

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