

GRACE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

PROGRAMS OF STUDY



ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–2027

A LEGACY OF FAITH & SCHOLARSHIP



Grace Theological College is committed to providing a rigorous academic environment that blends ancient wisdom with modern praxis. We prepare our graduates for diverse roles in ministry, academia, and social justice, ensuring they meet the highest standards of professional and spiritual readiness for the complexities of the 21st century.

Our curriculum provides students with a deep foundation in biblical studies, history, and theology. Whether pursuing a Master's degree or a specialized Doctorate, students engage in field education that bridges the gap between classroom theory and real-world ministry. We invite you to explore our programs and join a community dedicated to truth, compassion, and the transformative power of a graduate theological education.

01 — ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Grace Theological College awards the Master of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Education degrees in the programs listed below for the following majors: Ministry, Counseling, Theology, Education, Administration, Music, Fine arts, Media communications, and Social Work. Students choose their program and then create their majors as guided by the Holy Spirit.

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MASTER OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

The **Master of Christian Theology** (often structured as an MA, MS, or specialized track) is a graduate-level academic program that provides an in-depth study of Christian scripture, history, doctrine, and ethics.

Core Focus Areas

- **Biblical Studies:** Old and New Testament hermeneutics, exegesis, and original languages (such as Greek or Hebrew).
- **Systematic and Historical Theology:** The study of Christian dogmas, church history, the development of doctrine across centuries, and major traditions.
- **Christian Ethics and Moral Theology:** Applying theological truths to contemporary social, cultural, and personal issues.
- **Spiritual Formation:** Integrating academic rigor with personal faith, prayer, and character development.

Program Structure and Requirements

- **Duration:** Typically 1 to 2 years of full-time study (or longer if completed part-time), ranging from roughly 36 to 48 credit hours depending on the major.
- **Prerequisites:** Bachelor's degree.
- **Capstones:** The program culminates in a research thesis with a comprehensive oral defense.

Common Career Paths

- **Ministry & Leadership:** Serving as a pastor, church educator, youth director, or ministry leader.
- **Teaching & Writing:** Teaching religion or theology at congregational or community levels, or producing Christian literature and curricula.
- **Further Graduate Study:** Preparing for doctoral research (PhD or ThD) in theology, religious studies, or biblical languages.
- **Public Sector & Non-Profits:** Working in social justice, chaplaincy, faith-based advocacy, or counseling (non-licensure) fields.

MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) is a graduate-level degree that combines academic theological education with hands-on training for leadership, service, and care within a church or faith-based community.

Key Components of the Degree

- **Program Length & Structure:** From **36 to 42 credit hours**. Generally takes about two years of full-time study (or longer for part-time and working ministry students).
- **Core Curriculum:** Biblical studies, Systematic and Historical Theology, Christian ethics, Spiritual formation, and Practical ministry skills including Preaching and Business administration.
- **Field Education & Practicum:** Involves supervised hands-on ministry hours, pastoral counseling experience, or a culminating integration project within a local parish, congregation, or chaplaincy setting.

Common Career Paths & Roles

Graduates use the degree to prepare for or advance in various church and community roles, including:

- **Lead or Associate Pastor:** Serving local congregations, often meeting educational requirements for ordination in various denominations.
- **Lay Ecclesial or Parish Minister:** Leading religious education, catechesis, liturgy, or family ministry programs.
- **Chaplain or Counselor:** Providing spiritual care in hospitals, hospices, prisons, or military units.
- **Youth or Community Leader:** Directing outreach, non-profit organizations, or parachurch ministry initiatives.

MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Interreligious Studies (MAIRS) is a graduate-level academic program that explores how different religious traditions intersect, communicate, and engage with the modern world.

Core Focus and Purpose

- **Academic & Comparative Study:** The degree emphasizes the scholarly analysis of diverse worldviews, sacred texts, comparative theology, and the history of interfaith relations rather than training for a single pastoral ministry.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Programs typically combine insights from philosophy, the social sciences (sociology, anthropology), history, ethics, and cultural studies.
- **Dialogue & Social Cohesion:** Curriculum designs focus on equipping students to build bridges across religious differences, address global conflicts, and promote peace or public policy understanding.

Typical Program Structure

- **Credit Requirements:** A 36-credit-hour curriculum completed over roughly two years of full-time study.
- **Core Coursework:** Foundational classes cover world religions, the history of interreligious dialogue, hermeneutics (textual interpretation), and religious ethics.
- **Specializations:** Students choose elective tracks or focus areas such as specific faith traditions (e.g., Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism) or cross-cutting themes like science, religion, and ecology.
- **Final Requirement:** A capstone project or a master's thesis is required.

Common Career Paths

- **Interfaith & Community Leadership:** Working with non-profit organizations, community centers, or NGOs focused on multicultural dialogue and social justice.
- **Higher Education & Research:** Preparing for doctoral-level (Ph.D.) studies in religious studies, theology, or related academic fields.
- **Public Service & Diplomacy:** Applying cross-cultural and religious literacy to government, international relations, or public policy roles.

MASTER OF CHAPLAINCY DEGREE

The Master of Chaplaincy degree program is a graduate-level program designed to train spiritual care providers to work outside traditional church walls in pluralistic, secular, and institutional environments.

Core Components of the Program

- **Theological and Biblical Foundations:** Courses cover Scripture, religious doctrine, ethics, and spiritual formation to ground students in their personal faith while learning to respect diverse traditions.
- **Crisis Intervention and Trauma Care:** Training focuses on psychological and emotional first aid, grief management, end-of-life support, and helping individuals navigate acute stress and trauma.
- **Pluralistic and Intercultural Competencies:** In the program students learn how to offer compassionate, non-judgmental care to people from different faiths, cultures, or no religious background at all.
- **Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE):** Our program requires at least one (1) unit of CPE, which involve supervised hands-on practice in a clinical or institutional setting.

Program Length and Structure

- **Credit Requirements:** From **36 credit hours** to **72–75 credit hours** depending upon the chosen major. Note that specialized tracks are often required for military or federal service).
- **Format:** Hybrid: both synchronous and asynchronous courses are required, and CPE requires a local placement.
- **Endorsement:** While the degree provides the academic foundation, full professional chaplaincy often requires ecclesiastical endorsement from a recognized faith group and board certification (such as through the Association of Professional Chaplains). St. Grace Church is a member of the Federation of Christian Ministries from which endorsement may be sought.

Common Career Settings

Graduates provide spiritual and emotional care in diverse environments:

- **Healthcare:** Hospitals, hospices, and mental health facilities
- **Military and Veterans Affairs:** U.S. armed forces branches and VA hospitals (frequently requiring 72-credit credentials)
- **Correctional Facilities:** State and federal prisons
- **Community and Public Safety:** Police, fire, and EMS first-responder units
- **Education and Corporate:** Universities, college athletics, and corporate/workplace settings.

MASTER OF PASTORAL COUNSELING

The Master of Pastoral Counseling degree is a graduate-level program that combines theological training with psychological concepts to help individuals, families, and communities navigate emotional, mental, and spiritual struggles.

Core Focus and Curriculum

- **Integration of Faith and Psychology:** Students study human nature, grief, trauma, and crisis intervention through both a spiritual and psychological lens.
- **Practical Training:** The program includes supervised practicums, internships, and direct care within a Ministry, Hospital, or Community setting.
- **Specializations:** Community Chaplaincy, Family care, Crisis counseling, or Theology.
- **Ministry and Chaplaincy Use:** This **30 credit** degree is designed for pastors, church leaders, lay counselors, or chaplains working in churches, prisons, hospices, or healthcare facilities.

Non-Licensure

- **Not for State Licensure:** This Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling **does not** meet the academic or clinical requirements to become a state-licensed professional counselor (LPC) or licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT).

MASTER OF SACRED FINE ARTS

The **Master of Sacred Fine Arts** is a graduate-level interdisciplinary degree that blends the study of theology, philosophy, and history with the practice and appreciation of religious art, architecture, music, and liturgy. It is designed for artists, educators, architects, church coordinators, and individuals who want to create or support sacred works within a Christian or Interreligious spiritual and traditional framework.

Core Components of the Program

- **Theology and Philosophy:** Scripture, liturgical history, aesthetics, and writings on the role of beauty in faith (such as the *via pulchritudinis* or "Way of Beauty").
- **Practical and Studio Arts:** Students may study practical disciplines like icon painting, sacred architecture, carvings, music, photography, textiles, or traditional fine art techniques depending on their major. Reading comprehension in either Koine Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, French, German, or Spanish is required. Art Ethics, Business Administration, Art Law, Intellectual Property Law, and Social Entrepreneur courses are required.
- **Capstone or Portfolio Project:** The **30 – 36 credit** program require a final thesis, research paper, or physical body of creative work that demonstrates how the student relates to a faith through a specific medium. A minimum of two (2) Summer School immersions in Athens, or Rome, or Florence, or Venice, or Barcelona, or Mexico City, or Oxford are required before the Capstone or Portfolio project can be submitted.

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN OR MULTI-FAITH RELIGIOUS MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

The **Master of Arts in Christian or Multi-Faith Religious Media Communications** is a **36 credit** graduate degree that combines the study of theology, global religious traditions, and cultural ethics with practical training in modern digital media, journalism, and public communication.

Core Focus Areas

- **Theological & Religious Literacy:** Deepens understanding of how major religious traditions, beliefs, and histories shape global cultures, public ethics, and community identities.
- **Media & Digital Production:** Teaches practical skills in multimedia storytelling, digital marketing, broadcasting, journalism, audio/video production, and strategic public relations.
- **Ethics and Public Discourse:** Explores how mass media represents religion, how to handle sensitive cultural or religious reporting responsibly, and how faith-based groups communicate in a digital age.

Common Career Paths

The program objective is that graduates work in roles that bridge the gap between faith communities, the public sphere, and media organizations:

- **Media Director or Creative Communications Lead** for churches, religious nonprofits, or mission organizations
- **Journalist or Religion Beat Writer** for newspapers, digital publications, or broadcast networks
- **Digital Content Creator or Producer** crafting podcasts, videos, and social media strategies anchored in ethical storytelling
- **Public Relations or Communications Manager** for faith-based charities, educational institutions, or advocacy groups

MASTER OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

The Master of Women in Ministry Leadership is a graduate-level program designed to train and equip women for specialized leadership, teaching, counseling, and discipleship as entrepreneurs, and/or within churches, parachurch organizations, and global missions.

Core Focus and Curriculum

The program is interdisciplinary and combines theological education with practical training. Common areas of study include:

- **Biblical and Theological Studies:** In-depth study of Scripture, hermeneutics (interpretation), and theological foundations regarding women in the Bible and the church.
- **Discipleship and Teaching:** Training on how to teach, mentor, and disciple women and girls in various life stages.
- **Pastoral Care and Counseling:** Equipping students with basic crisis counseling, listening skills, and biblical counseling principles.
- **Leadership and Administration:** Practical instruction on organizing, administering, and scaling women's ministries, volunteer teams, and community outreach.
- **Field Education / Practicum:** Supervised hands-on ministry experience or local church internships to connect classroom study with real-world church life.

Program Length and Format

- **Length:** Full time – 2 years. Part time 4 – years; Depending upon the major.
- **Admission criteria:** Bachelor's degree.
- **Credits to completion:** 36 – 48 credits depending upon the major
- **Delivery:** Synchronous, asynchronous, and hybrid formats that allow students to continue serving in their local contexts.

Common Career Outcomes

Graduates serve in roles such as:

- **Women's Ministry Director or Pastor** in local congregations
- **Discipleship or Counseling Coordinator**
- **Parachurch or Mission Organization Leader**
- **Educator, Chaplain, or Mentor** in faith-based settings

DOCTOR OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

The Doctor of Christian Theology, structured as a **Ph.D. in Christian Theology**, is a terminal academic research degree designed to train scholars, educators, and advanced church thinkers in the deep study of Christian doctrine, history, and practice.

Core Focus and Purpose

- **Academic & Church Integration:** The program bridges rigorous scholarship with the life and history of the Christian church.
- **Theological Disciplines:** Systematic theology, Historical theology, Biblical studies, and Christian ethics.
- **Research & Writing:** Requires extensive independent study, comprehensive exams, and an original research dissertation.

Typical Program Structure

- **Prerequisites:** A master's degree in Christian Theology or Divinity studies.
- **Coursework: 30 – 36 credits. 3 years full time – 6 years part time.** Advanced interdisciplinary seminars in Christian Church history, Patristics, Dogmatics, Moral theology, Christian Mysticism, Women's studies, Theological writing, Sacred art.
- **Language Requirements:** Reading competence in two (2) or more ancient or modern research languages (such as Akkadian, Koine Greek, Hebrew, Latin, German, or French) depending on the major.
- **Dissertation:** A major written work (200+ pages), making an original contribution to Christian Theology or Biblical scholarship, with a successful Oral Defense.

Doctor of Interreligious Studies, Ph.D.

The research-focused **Ph.D. in Interreligious Studies** is an intensive, multi-year academic journey with the objective to prepare the student for higher education faculty positions, think-tank research, and global policy advisory roles.

Program Structure

This Ph.D. program takes **4 to 6 years** of study and is generally broken into three distinct phases: **40 – 60 credits**.

- **Years 1–2: Coursework & Foundational Theory:** The student will take advanced seminars covering the methodology of religious studies, comparative theology (studying the beliefs of multiple traditions), and historical frameworks of religious encounter.
- **Year 3: Comprehensive Exams & Proposals:**
The student completes written and oral comprehensive examinations proving mastery over their chosen major. For example, Christian-Muslim relations, Jewish Studies, South American Indigenous paths, Ancient African religious traditions.
- **Years 4+: Dissertation Research & Writing:** The student performs independent, primary-source research, writes a dissertation that makes a completely unique contribution to the field, and successfully mounts an oral defense to the work.

Admission Requirements

Because of the heavy research expectations, admissions are highly selective. The program requires:

- **Prior Graduate Degree:** A master's degree in a related field such as Theology, or Christian church history, or a belief history of the respective Tradition/Path, or Religious studies, with a minimum **3.0 GPA**.
- **Language Proficiency:** Reading knowledge of **at least two languages other than English** is mandatory before or during the program. For example, if you are researching early Islamic-Christian dialogues, you will need proficiency in Arabic and Latin or Greek.
- **Academic Portfolio:** A high-quality **academic writing sample** (a 20-30 page research paper) demonstrating your ability to handle primary sources, along with a focused Statement of Purpose outlining your exact research project.

DOCTOR OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

The **Doctor of Women in Ministry Leadership** is a **30 credit** professional doctoral degree designed for women serving in church, parachurch, educational, NGOs, or organizational ministries.

Core Focus of the Degree

- **Theological and Biblical Depth:** The program grounds women in Scripture, theological inquiry, and Multifaith worldview regarding leadership roles, women's callings, and the history of women in ministry.
- **Practical Leadership Skills:** Preaching, Teaching, Organizational dynamics, Emotional intelligence, Crisis management, Critical Thinking skills, Mediation and Negotiation techniques, Business Management, Ecclesiastical Protocol.
- **Addressing Unique Challenges:** The program specifically explores the unique internal and external barriers, systemic underrepresentation, and isolation that women often experience in top leadership positions.
- **Cohort-Based Community:** A cohort model is utilized such that female leaders can build a supportive network of peers, mentors, and scholars who share similar vocational paths.

Program Structure

- **Prerequisites:** Master of Divinity (MDiv) or Master of Theology, or Ministry.
- **Duration:** 3 years to complete via a hybrid format.
- **Core Curriculum Phases**
 1. **Spiritual Formation:** Nurturing personal spiritual health, resilience, and vocational identity.
 2. **Communication & Teaching:** Improving preaching, public speaking, and learner engagement.
 3. **Organizational Leadership:** Navigating institutional conflict, strategic planning, and leading teams.
 4. **Doctoral Project:** A capstone research-in-practice project applied directly to the student's ministry or community context.

DOCTOR OF LEADERSHIP IN INTERRELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The **Ed.D.** (Doctor of Leadership in Interreligious Education) is a professional terminal degree designed to prepare experienced educators and leaders to solve real-world problems in schools, districts, higher education, nonprofits, and corporate or government settings.

Key Characteristics of the Ed.D. Program

- **Focus on Practice:** Unlike our Ph.D. in Education—which trains academic researchers and theorists—the Interreligious Ed.D. focuses on applied leadership, systemic change, equity, and operational problem-solving.
- **Target Audience:** This program is designed for working professionals (such as K-12 principals, superintendents, instructional coaches, and corporate learning managers) who maintain employment while studying.
- **Program Length & Format:** **Bachelor's + 60 credits, or Masters + 30 credits.** The program takes 3 to 4 years to complete. Courses are offered in synchronous, asynchronous, and hybrid formats.
- **The Dissertation / Capstone:** Ed.D. students must complete a dissertation in practice or an action-research project that addresses a specific issue within their major.

Common Career Paths

- **K-12 District & School Leadership:** Superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or curriculum director.
- **Higher Education:** College dean, student affairs director, or university instructor.
- **Policy & Consulting:** Education policy analyst, government specialist, or school reform consultant.
- **Organizational Learning:** Corporate learning and development (L&D) manager or training director.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR MINISTRY VOCATION

Apply to our private, small, affirming, spiritually-progressive college where you can earn graduate religious degrees focused on Ecumenical, Non-Denominational, and Interreligious studies for Sacred Activists and Social Justice Advocates. Apply anytime you like—applications are always open. We have one flat tuition rate. You can choose from live (synchronous), self-paced (asynchronous), and/or blended (hybrid) courses. Learn whenever it fits your schedule, day or night, all year long. Our experienced, welcoming faculty are from multi-faith, multi-cultural backgrounds. For more info, just email us at information@gracetheological.college To apply online for our ABD or our listed programs download the Program of Study and apply online below.

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