

THE MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.Div.)

The Master of Divinity is the first professional, theological degree for persons who expect to engage in some form of ordained ministry. The course work consists of 78 credit hours and requires at least three years of study. There are two tracks available to the M.Div. degree: the Pastoral Leadership track designed primarily for those seeking denominational ordination, and the Adaptive Leadership track that offers significant flexibility for those with different ministry callings. These two tracks share 60 credits of core, foundational courses, with the Pastoral Leadership track having an additional 15 core credits. Most courses in the curriculum are 3 credit hour courses that meet for 3 hours once a week over a 14-week semester.

Work schedules, attempts to keep down commuting time and costs, and various other factors may prevent a student from taking the core courses in the recommended order. However, there is a strong rationale for the following sequence, and students are urged to take these courses as close to that order as possible. By doing so, students may avoid scheduling problems as they approach the end of a degree program. An overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.5 is normally required for admission to the M.Div. program. The maximum time allowance for completion of the degree requirements is ten academic years.

Graduation Requirements

To be recommended for the M.Div. degree, the candidate must:

1. Satisfactorily earn 78 credit hours, including all of the prescribed course requirements, plus fulfillment of financial and library obligations.
2. Maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average for the total course of studies.
3. Formulate a satisfactory statement of personal Christian faith and a theology of ministry and mission.
4. Satisfactorily complete INTG 510 A Guide to Seminary Writing, unless testing out of it.
5. Give evidence of readiness for ministry, including such attributes as satisfactory character, moral and spiritual maturity, and emotional stability.

Graduation and Ordination

The M.Div. program is intended to prepare persons for ordained ministry, but granting the degree does not imply endorsement for ordination. While this degree from Palmer Theological Seminary normally meets the educational requirements for ordination in most denominations, some may require additional work in denominationally-specific areas. More importantly, churches and other appropriate bodies ultimately determine whether a graduate will be ordained.

M.Div. Core Curriculum

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Level 1 Courses		
INTG 510	A Guide to Seminary Writing ¹	3

SFRM 505	Nurturing Spiritual Life & Character I: Introduction to Spiritual Formation	3
BIBL 501	Old Testament Study I	3
BIBL 503	New Testament Study I	3
BIBL 513	Biblical Interpretation for Ministry	3
CHHM 510	The Church in Mission Through History	3
PRMN 510	Foundations of Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
THLE 510	Theology and Ethics of Congregational Life	3
Level 2 Courses		
SFRM 506	Nurturing Spiritual Life & Character II Journey to Wholeness	3
BIBL 502	Old Testament Study II	3
BIBL 504	New Testament Study II	3
THLE 520	Syst.Theo.& Ethics: Vision of Community	3
THLE 521	Syst.Theo.& Ethics: Reign of God	3
PRMN 520	Introduction to Homiletics	3
SUPV 525	Theological Field Education 1A	3
& SUPV 526	and Theological Field Education 1B	
Select one of the following: ²		3
BIBL 514	Biblical Hebrew	
BIBL 516	New Testament Greek	
Select one of the following: ²		3
BIBL 515	Hebrew Exegesis	
BIBL 517	New Testament Greek Exegesis	
PRMN 521	Preaching Practicum ²	3
Level 3 Courses		
SFRM 507	Nurturing Spiritual Life & Character III The Christian Leader	3
INTG 524	Church Renewal & Evangelism	3
CHHM 530	Christian World Mission	3
PRMN 540	Organizational Management and Leadership	3
PRMN 530D	Teaching the Faith	3
INTG 531	Theology & Practice of Worship ²	3
Select one of the following: ²		3
SUPV 522	Clinical Pastoral Care Practicum (cpc)	
SUPV 532	Clinical Pastoral Education	
Electives ³		3-18

¹ Students can test out of this course.

² Required only for Pastoral Leadership track.

³ 3 credit hours for Pastoral Leadership Track
18 credit hours for Adaptive Leadership (Customized) Track

Required Electives

Successful completion of three credit hours of elective coursework for the Pastoral Leadership track and 18 for the Adaptive Leadership (Customized) track are required from additional Seminary or Eastern University graduate courses. Up to nine credit hours of elective coursework may be taken from non-M.Div. program courses based on a clear justification for doing so. Courses satisfying these required electives are offered either in the regular semester or in a concentrated 'intensive' format during the summer terms.

Denominationally Specific Requirements

Denominational coursework is not required by Palmer for the M.Div. degree, but may be required by student's particular denomination; the student should consult his or her denominational body to determine its specific requirements.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
DNOM 510	Baptist Emphases & Polity	3
DNOM 513	Presbyterian Polity & Sacraments	3
DNOM 514	Theology in the Reformed Tradition	3
DNOM 520	United Methodist Doctrine and Polity	3
DNOM 521	United Methodist History & Mission	3

Theological Field Education

The Seminary's motto establishes a strong motivation to provide supervised pastoral experience, so that whole persons are prepared to respond to the Gospel imperative to minister to the varied challenges of our changing world. Field education students engage in internships 10 to 12 hours per week in churches or church-related agencies under the guidance of experienced supervisors and lay committees. The year of theological field education occurs in a setting where the seminarian engages in a broad spectrum of ministerial responsibilities. Students are challenged to grow personally, relationally, and professionally. In addition to their field placement, students participate in a weekly faculty-led seminar groups that foster personal sharing and theological reflection on their pastoral experiences and vocational identity formation.

Completion of at least one year of Theological Field Education is required for the M.Div. degree. During their first year in Seminary, M.Div. students are encouraged to meet with the Supervised Ministries staff for orientation in preparation for interviewing for internships. Other forms of theological field education may be taken as electives in any academic term (Fall, Spring, Summer). These include supervised ministry in parishes, denominational agencies, summer camps, and national parks as well as in various other urban or rural settings.