



Whenever the church moves into new phases of its life, as we see happening in the 21st century, it turns to its historic resources for insight and renewal.

This degree equips students to engage that material skillfully. Though the program has a broad focus, it offers special opportunities in learning about the Christian East. As the world shrinks and we become increasingly global, the need for understanding how the Gospel has been contextualized in the Middle East and Asia is pressing.

Why the Master of Arts Track in Ancient and Oriental Christianity?

This program is especially suitable for students interested in going on to future study in Ph.D. programs, including those who might also be pursuing an M.Div. at the same time (though that is not a requirement).

In addition to preparing students for advanced academic work, this program prepares students to engage the growing fascination with the theology and spirituality of eastern Christian communities, and even equip them to function better as class teachers in congregational contexts, or as missionaries and church planters in non-western contexts. Students who are adept in language acquisition and enjoy reading texts closely will find themselves especially suited for this program.

Why ACU?

- Excellent faculty who are passionate about academic training and student mentoring, with strengths in the areas of ancient Christian languages, texts and research, especially in Eastern contexts – the Early, Late Antique or Medieval periods.
- Opportunities to collaborate and research with the Center for the Study of Ancient Religious Texts (CSART).
- Graduates have successfully pursued doctoral study at some of the world’s most prestigious universities such as Princeton, Notre Dame, Oxford, Emory, Harvard, Yale, Baylor, SMU, Catholic University of America, Florida State, and Fuller Theological Seminary.

Degree Curriculum

The M.A. in Ancient and Oriental Christianity is a 48-hour thesis program. The degree includes 27 course hours of core curriculum shared by all GST degrees. An additional 21 hours are required in Ancient and Oriental Christianity curriculum, including 6 thesis hours.

If you also are interested in pursuing an M.Div. with us, the M.A. in Ancient and Oriental Christianity would only add an additional 18 credits. Also, if you have advanced preparation through undergrad study or previous graduate work, you may apply to take advanced standing exams for 12 hours of the degree. Talk with a GST advisor to learn more!

48

Number of credit hours

24

Months average time to completion



On campus in Abilene, Texas

MASTER OF ARTS IN ANCIENT AND ORIENTAL CHRISTIANITY

Interested in deepening your understanding of ancient texts and languages? The Master of Arts in Ancient and Oriental Christianity is a research-oriented 48-hour degree that will provide you with a rigorous academic study of early Christianity.



Core Curriculum (27 hours)

- 6 hours of an appropriate language
- GST Orientation
- Systematic Theology I
- History of Christianity I: Early and Medieval
- History of Christianity II: Reformation to Present
- Critical Interpretation of the Old Testament
- Critical Interpretation of the New Testament
- Thesis

Ancient and Oriental Christianity Curriculum (21 hours)

- Research Problems in Theology
- Theological Explorations
- Explorations in the Christian East
- Christian Mission in Global Contexts
- Ancient Language
- Electives
- English Bible exam
- Oral exam

Accreditation

Abilene Christian University's Graduate School of Theology is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada to award its master's and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on accrediting at 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275 or call 412-788-6505 for questions about accreditation.

Application Requirements

1. A complete application and application fee;
2. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities you've attended;
3. A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher from an accredited institution;
4. GST Writing Assessment
5. Two letters of recommendation; and
6. A reflective essay, three to five pages in length (typed, double-spaced).

For more information, email gst@acu.edu.



Program Advisor

Dr. Jeff Childers ('89)
jeff.childers@acu.edu

Affordability and Financial Aid

Recognizing that graduate studies can be an intimidating expense, we are dedicated to helping you pursue a degree without a heavy financial burden. We recently reduced our tuition costs to make the financial investment in a theological degree at ACU comparable to similar programs at other schools. On average, more than 75 percent of our students receive scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition. To be eligible for a GST Scholarship, be sure to complete our GST Scholarship Application during the application process. We award scholarships based on prior academic achievement and financial need.

We also offer a number of graduate assistantships for our residential students. Graduate assistants receive a stipend and work alongside our professors helping with various tasks including conducting research, grading and helping teach undergraduate courses. Our hope is that through a combination of generous scholarships, potentially working as a graduate assistant, and the low cost of living in Abilene, Texas, you will graduate without the stress of unmanageable debt.



Alumni Testimonial Laura (Locke '16 M.A.) Estes

Ph.D. Candidate, Christianity
in Antiquity

Department of Theological
Studies, Saint Louis University

"Now as a doctoral student, I have found that I am as well prepared as (if not better than) my peers in my own program and at other institutions. ACU's course offerings in Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, Latin, Ge'ez, Coptic, German and French are an impressive catalogue rarely found outside top research institutions. As a recent graduate of ACU, I can attest that its M.A. in Ancient and Oriental Christianity combines instruction in each of these areas with fantastic mentorship, attention to the student's spiritual formation, and encouragement to connect one's research to the life of the church."



ABILENE CHRISTIAN
Graduate School of Theology

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