



Why the M.A. in Theology?

The M.A. in Theology will help you further develop your reading, writing and thinking skills. Our courses focus on topics and figures within and outside the Christian tradition. They require engagement with the primary sources rather than survey or introductory material. Our students are trained to explore and evaluate these primary sources well through deep class discussion and writing assignments.

To hone your skills in argumentation and research, we assign term papers to help you articulate, defend, and advance a research proposal. The M.A. in Theology requires a thesis project that is more akin to a small-scale doctoral dissertation than a typical master's thesis. Our professors and advisors are dedicated to walk alongside you from the beginning to the end of this process.

Why the Graduate School of Theology at ACU?

- Students are advised and mentored by Dr. Frederick D. Aquino, a world-class, widely published scholar of theology.
- Excellent faculty passionate about academic training and student mentoring.
- Graduates have successfully pursued doctoral study at some of the world's most prestigious universities such as Boston College, Emory, Harvard, Princeton, and Southern Methodist University.
- We train you how to think, not what to think. We invite you to come with your questions and thoughts.

Degree Curriculum

The M.A. in Theology 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 theology curriculum, including 6 thesis hours.

If you also are interested in pursuing an M.Div. with us, the M.A. in Theology 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!

Core Curriculum

- 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 (6)

Theology Curriculum

- Research Problems in Theology
- Systematic Theology II
- Theological Explorations

48

Number of credit hours

24

Months average time to completion



On campus in Abilene, Texas

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY

Are you interested in diving deeper into theological and philosophical questions?

The MA in Theology provides rigorous academic training in theological research and scholarship. This degree also equips students to draw from the resources of the Christian tradition and to advance the practice of theology in the church, academy, and contemporary society.



- Contemporary Religious Thought
- Philosophy of Religion
- 6 hours of electives

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;
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. Federick Aquino ('89)
federick.aquino@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 ministry 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 Matthew Hale ('15)

Ph.D. of Theology candidate
 at the Catholic University
 of America

"My time in the M.A. in Theology program was extremely fruitful. I learned how to write with clarity and concision, I learned how to construct an argument, I learned how to engage with new ideas charitably and critically, and I learned how to carefully read a text. These skills, overlooked so often even in academia, have served me very well in my current Ph.D. work. Moreover, I was able to work extensively with figures in the Christian tradition, to expand my knowledge of scripture, and to develop a grasp of many of the relevant philosophical issues at play in theology."



ABILENE CHRISTIAN
Graduate School of Theology

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