

Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.)

Pursue your calling at Perkins

Do you have a passion for music and faith? The M.S.M. Program prepares students for professional music and arts leadership in the church, such as congregational singing and conductor of various ensembles in both the church and community. Music courses, practicum, worship leadership opportunities and other work are offered, providing opportunities to learn a wide range of literature, performance practices and skills.

Offered jointly through the Division of Music of the Meadows School of the Arts and Perkins School of Theology, the M.S.M. Program consists of 48 academic credit hours. Features of the Program are:

- Preparing for professional music leadership in the church
- Can be ordained as deacon
- Located in Dallas, Texas, home to a diverse and vibrant worship life, including a wealth of artistic opportunities. Performance venues for symphony, opera and choral music, as well as space for dance, theater and other artistic expressions make this one of the major hubs for the arts in the United States
- Musical skills are greatly enhanced by the opportunities available in applied area concentrations
- The understanding of sacred music will be stretched within a larger theological and cultural framework

Some of the different concentrations and respective courses are:

Choral Conducting, Composition and Arranging, Keyboards, Organ, Music Education, Worship Arts and Liturgical Musicology

The M.S.M. Program is designed to train professional musicians for leadership roles in Christian congregations as an Ordained Deacon, performer or teacher. This degree can be applied to both academic and church settings and can also prepare for doctoral study.



At Perkins School of Theology, you will gain a balance of academic preparedness and hands-on learning to equip you for ministry and leadership in the church of the 21st century.

Learn more about the M.S.M. degree program at smu.edu/msm

Focus: Preparation for professional music and arts leadership in the church (congregational singing and conductor of various ensembles in both the church and community)

Credit Hours: 48

Ministry Paths: Ordained as Deacon, music ministry (choral, organ, keyboards, other) or preparation for doctoral study (Ph.D., Doctor of Music Arts, other)



“My M.S.M. degree melded theological dignity, musical excellence and liturgical design in ways that have opened doors for me to enliven worship both within and beyond the church walls of my community.”

Rebecca E. Garrett
2013 Perkins
M.S.M. Graduate

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AREAS OF STUDY	CREDIT HOURS	COURSEWORK
Foundational Coursework Credit Hours: 26	12	Theological Studies
	11	Church Music Studies
	3	Professional Skills and Methods
Concentration* Credit Hours: 13	13	Choral conducting Composition/arranging Keyboards Organ Liturgical Musicology Music Education Worship Arts
Elective Credits Credit Hours: 9	9	Select Course from your field of interest

** Ordination requirements are determined by ordaining bodies and will require students to be familiar with the needs (if any) of their affiliated denomination and may influence concentration selection.*



Learn more

at one of our exploratory
discernment events
(both in-person and virtual).



Request information

by visiting our
Admission website.



Perkins friends and alums,

we invite you to refer
prospective students here.