

# Master of Theology (Th.M.)

## *Pursue your calling at Perkins*

Our Th.M. Program is designed to enhance the practice of ministry through advanced study of a particular theological or pastoral discipline, scholarly examination of a specific aspect of the Christian religion/traditions or function of Christian ministry or preparation for more advanced study at the doctoral level.

**The Th.M. Program allows students to pursue advanced theological study for 24 academic credit hours, and offers opportunities, such as:**

- Working closely with an expert in the desired area of specialization
- Return to theological education to specialize in a topic of your interest
- Hone in on research skills and produce a thesis or portfolio

**Students may choose to focus within one of the following broad divisions:**

- The Biblical Witness
- The Heritage & Context of Christianity
- The Interpretation of the Christian Witness
- The Theology & Practice of Ministry

Through the practice of ministry through advanced study, students in the Th.M. Program can benefit from this degree through personal enrichment, by working as a missionary, a teacher, a social worker or elsewhere or prepare for study at the doctoral level.



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 Th.M. degree program at [smu.edu/thm](http://smu.edu/thm)**

**Focus:** Designed to enhance the practice of ministry through advanced study of a particular theological or pastoral discipline; scholarly examination of a specific aspect of the Christian religion/traditions or function of Christian ministry; preparation for more advanced study at the doctoral level (Ph.D.)

**Credit Hours:** 24

**Ministry Paths:** Step toward Ph.D. education or personal enrichment

# Master of Theology (Th.M.) • 24 Credit Hours

## Course Requirements

The Th.M. program requires 24 term hours. Given the open nature of the inquiry that students in the Th.M. program will pursue, there are no explicitly required courses. The student will prepare a Plan for Study establishing the parameters of study for the degree program, including a specific area of focus and courses to be taken, to be approved before final enrollment. These courses will meet the following guidelines:

- All courses will be at the 7000 level or above
- At least two courses will be at the 8000 level
- One course may be a directed reading course.
- This course will require a minimum of one research paper of at least 5,000 words
- Th.M. candidates must maintain a B (3.0) grade point average in order to continue in the program and graduate

## Students may choose one of two options to fulfill the requirements of the program:

- A thesis of 12,500 to 18,750 words (50-75 pages) on a topic related to the Plan of Study.  
If the thesis option is chosen, an approved thesis proposal is required to proceed after the completion of 12 hours of course work. Preparation of the thesis will count 3 hours toward the completion of the degree
- A portfolio that includes written and other material submitted in fulfillment of their course requirements. The material chosen must represent all the courses taken and cover all aspects of the approved Plan for Study. The portfolio must include at least two research papers of not less than 5,000 words (20 pages) each

## Assessment

The school will review theses and portfolios in aggregate to assess the overall success of students in the program and to identify areas where instruction and other aspects of the academic experience can be improved.

## Advising

In order to facilitate the needs of applicants, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will serve as initial reader of the Plans for Study of applicants. S/he will assist successful applicants in covenanting with a final advisor and thesis supervisor as needed.



### 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.