DEGREE PROGRAMS
AND REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following general requirements apply to all students in the Divinity School.

A degree from the Divinity School is awarded following the completion of all stipulated requirements for the degree. Requirements for coursework vary among degree programs at the Divinity School. Students in the A.M.R.S., M.A, and M.Div. programs are required to register for and complete a certain number of courses as follows: nine courses for the A.M.R.S. program; fifteen for the M.A. program; twenty-eight for the M.Div. program. Coursework is a significant component of the doctoral program. Ph.D. students engage in coursework in order to develop skills, competency, and depth in the chosen field of study, as well as breadth across other disciplines in the academic study of religion. Normally, Ph.D. students are enrolled in a minimum of two courses per quarter during at least the first two years of the program. All master's level students (A.M.R.S., M.A, and M.Div.) are required to complete the course "Introduction to the Study of Religion". Particular areas of study do require specific courses of their doctoral students, and students should consult relevant faculty members and the guidelines of their specific areas of study concerning these matters. Normally, Ph.D. students are required to complete at least two courses per quarter for the first two years of study, both to develop their own scholarly capabilities and to provide appropriate opportunities for faculty members to assess their work.

Students in all degree programs except the A.M.R.S. are required to complete a minimum number of years of scholastic residence. These students normally complete the residence requirement through continuous registration in the autumn, winter, and spring quarters of successive academic years. All students doing research leading to a degree, preparing for the qualifying examination, or writing dissertations must be registered.

M.A. and M.Div. students will not be allowed to register for the second or third year of their programs if they have more than three incomplete grades outstanding. (An incomplete grade is marked as an “I” or a "NGR" on a student's transcript. See the section on “Grading System” for more information.) All students who wish to qualify for federal student loans must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and a minimum of one passing grade per quarter. Students with incomplete grades must complete the work within one calendar year. Failure to do so may result in repayment penalties with regard to federal student loans, and will jeopardize the student's status in satisfactory academic progress. In such cases, a Plan for Completion of Incomplete Coursework must be completed and submitted to the Dean of Students to ensure timely completion of academic work.

All degree programs in the Divinity School except the A.M.R.S. require completion of a foreign language requirement. Students complete this requirement by passing the University of Chicago language examination with a “High Pass” (P*).
Administered by the University, the examinations test reading comprehension by requiring the translation into idiomatic English of short passages from scholarly publications.

Students may also meet the requirement by receiving the grade of "A" in the University’s "Reading and Research Purposes" courses in either French or German. Students register to graduate upon completion of all degree requirements.

MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAMS

The Divinity School offers three master’s degrees: the A.M.R.S., the M.A., and the M.Div.

The A.M.R.S requires completion of nine courses within three years or nine academic quarters, and is a concentrated program in the study of religion for those in other professions (e.g., law, medicine, business, journalism, the arts) or those who seek greater knowledge of and sophistication in the study of religion.

The M.A. requires two years of residence and is a foundational program in the academic study of religion for students who wish to acquire the requisite skills to develop a research agenda for doctoral study, or to establish a basis for a career in such related fields as education, publishing, government service, non-profit work, etc.

The M.Div. requires three years of residence and is an intensive cohort-based course of study that prepares students for public religious leadership both in traditional ministerial professions, including teaching and scholarship, and in new and emerging forms of ministry. See detailed descriptions of the requirements for these degrees below.

TRANSFER AMONG PROGRAMS

Students are admitted to only one of the master’s-level degree programs, but the Divinity School recognizes that students may change their educational objectives during their first year of study. For that reason, if students have persuasive reasons for doing so, they may petition to transfer among the programs.

Students in the A.M.R.S., M.A., and M.Div. programs are required to take the course introducing students to the study of religion. In the spring quarter of their first year, all students will meet with the Dean of Students to review their academic progress and goals. Students desiring to transfer among programs may petition to do so.

In the winter quarter of the second year (or in the winter quarter of the year following receipt of the M.A. degree) for those enrolled in the M.A. program and of the third year for those enrolled in the M.Div. program, students may apply to the Ph.D. program by in-house petition. M.A. students who wish to do so must have completed three courses in the area of study to which they are applying by the end of the autumn quarter. Students admitted to the Ph.D. program must have received the master’s degree prior to matriculation into the Ph.D. program.
MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

The M.A. program is a two-year foundational program in the academic study of religion for students who wish to acquire the requisite skills to develop a research agenda for doctoral study, or to establish a basis for a career in such related fields as education, publishing, government service, non-profit work, etc.

The M.A. program is two years in duration. Students in the program may apply by course of study petition for Ph.D. admission in the winter quarter of their second year or in the winter quarter of the first or second year following receipt of the M.A. Students are required to complete fifteen courses during the six quarters of residence to receive the degree. This number of courses is considered optimal for achieving the program’s dual goal of genuine breadth of acquaintance with the methods of religious inquiry and some depth of knowledge in a specific area of concentration.

Requirements

1. Two years of Scholastic Residence
2. Proof of competence in French or German.
3. Fifteen courses, including the following:
   Satisfactory completion during the first year of study of the course “Introduction to the Study of Religion”.
   Satisfactory completion of one additional course from each of the three committees of the faculty. Selected courses in each area of study have been designated by the faculty as appropriate in meeting this requirement. These courses have been so noted in the web-based listing of Divinity School courses for each academic quarter.
   Unless otherwise indicated, satisfactory completion signifies work completed at the level of B- or higher.

The Introduction to the Study of Religion Course

The academic study of religion(s) is complex not simply by virtue of its diverse subject matter, but because of the many different perspectives from which scholars investigate and define the subject. Scholars of religion throughout the academy engage in research that emphasizes historical, comparative, literary critical, philosophical, social scientific, or ethical methods and questions. The Divinity School faculty believes that the capacity to engage in this interdisciplinary conversation will enrich the student’s scholarly agenda. For that reason, the M.A. program requires enrollment during the first year of the program in the DVSC 30400 Introduction to the Study of Religion course. Using a selected text, faculty from a variety of disciplines engage the text in dialogue with the lead instructor and students. This course accomplishes three purposes. First, it illustrates the types of questions that are pursued within the ten areas of study of the faculty. Second, it situates these methods and questions in the wider sweep of Western inquiries into the nature of religion. Third, it assists the M.A. student in defining the distinctive character of his or her Ph.D. project, and the group of written examinations that would best enable the student to pursue that project.
Because all students in master’s programs at the Divinity School are also required to take this course, the conversation is further enriched by the diverse perspectives of scholars who plan careers in the academy as well as leadership within a religious tradition.

Requirements for each course will be determined by the instructor. This course may not be taken pass/fail. Successful completion requires receipt of a letter grade of B- or higher. The following course information is specific to the 2015-2016 academic year:

DVSC 30400 Introduction to the Study of Religion. Sarah Hammerschlag.

This course will examine a seminal moment in the formation of the category “religion,” by focusing on Moses Mendelssohn's *Jerusalem* (1783). Often considered the foundational text for modern Jewish thought, we will treat it here as a foundational text for the study of religion. We will consider the use that Mendelssohn makes of the category of religion as a means for comparing Judaism and Christianity, the model he proposes for the relationship between church and state, the function of the biblical canon in his claims, and the legacy of the Jewish exemplar for considering other processes of identity negotiation, not only in the West but in other colonial and postcolonial contexts. In order to flesh out these issues, we will read a few of Mendelssohn's predecessors and his contemporary interlocutors, including Spinoza, Kant and Lessing, and recent attempts to rethink the legacy of *Jerusalem*, such as selections from Amir Mufti's *Enlightenment in the Colony* and Leora Batnizky's *How Judaism became a Religion*. The course will include a series of class lectures by Divinity School faculty members across the areas of study who will treat the text's legacy by considering the persistence of its questions across multiple subfields and the differences in its refractions when engaged by various methods.

**Elective Course Work**

With the exception of the introductory course, DVSC 30400 “Introduction to the Study of Religion”, M.A. students elect their course work for the degree. A total of fifteen courses are required over the two years of the program. They consult with faculty about the courses that would be most useful in helping them to determine the focus and direction of their work. The following guidelines outline the types of work these students should pursue over the two years of the program:

1. Further courses emphasizing breadth in the study of religion—M.A. students must complete three additional courses beyond the introductory course, one from each of the three committees of the faculty.
2. Courses in the area of study in which the student wishes to concentrate Ph.D. study—the M.A. student who applies to the Ph.D. program must have completed three courses in the proposed area of concentration.
3. Language study, further elective course work in the Divinity School, or course work elsewhere in the University.

**Application to the Ph.D. Program**

The Divinity School’s M.A. program is its primary source of Ph.D. students. While admission to the M.A. does not guarantee admission to the Ph.D., the Divinity
School does offer its M.A. students the opportunity to apply to the Ph.D. program by in-house petition, and a student's performance in the M.A. program constitutes the central criterion for admission to the Ph.D program.

M.A. students apply to the Ph.D. program in the winter quarter of the second year or the winter quarter following receipt of the M.A. (The residence requirement makes it impossible for the student to complete all M.A. degree requirements before applying to the Ph.D. program; Ph.D. admission is contingent upon successful completion of all M.A. requirements prior to registration as a Ph.D. student.)

To apply to the Ph.D. program, an M.A. student must accomplish the following:

1. Satisfactory completion of three courses, with grades recorded on the transcript, in the area in which the student proposes to concentrate Ph.D. study. These must be completed by the conclusion of the autumn quarter of the year prior to that in which the student makes application to the Ph.D. program.
2. Submission of an appropriate research paper written for a course offered by the area to which the student is applying. It must be submitted with the grade and original faculty comments.
3. Submission of a course of study petition requesting a faculty adviser, proposing written examinations—listing at least four Divinity School faculty members—and outlining a program of study at the Ph.D. level.

MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (A.M.R.S.)

The M.A. program in Religious Studies is a concentrated program in the academic study of religion for those in other fields or professions (e.g., law, medicine, business, journalism, the arts), or those who seek greater knowledge in the study of religion. The A.M.R.S. program can be completed in one year, or students may choose to pursue the degree by enrolling in no less than one course per quarter over a period of no more than nine academic quarters.

In consultation with the faculty advisor and the Dean of Students, A.M.R.S. students are free to choose from the course offerings of the various areas of study in the Divinity School and other parts of the University to meet these requirements. In some cases, the consent of the instructor may be required.

Requirements

1. Registration for, and completion of, a minimum of nine courses. Students are normally enrolled for no more than the equivalent of 3 academic years.
2. Satisfactory completion of the course “Introduction to the Study of Religion.”
3. Satisfactory completion (B- or above) of courses in at least three areas of study in at least two of the committees of the faculty. Students should consult with the Dean of Students and their faculty advisor concerning an appropriate range of course work that meets this requirement.
4. Completion of a one-hour oral examination based on a paper that represents the student’s interests in the study of religion. This document is normally the revised version of a paper the student wrote to complete the requirements of a course. The oral examination is convened by the Dean of Students, and includes the student and two faculty members with whom the student has worked. The examination paper is
chosen by the student, but the student’s choice must be approved well in advance by the faculty member under whose direction the paper was originally written. A student scheduling his or her examination must make application to do so no later than the third week of the quarter in which he or she intends to take it.

Students from a variety of professions have pursued the A.M.R.S. degree, each focusing his/her coursework in one or more of the Divinity School’s eleven areas of study. These students also take advantage of related coursework available across the University of Chicago, e.g., courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions. For some, the goal is focused study in one area. For others, their course selections reveal a desire to study broadly in the field of religion to learn more about particular religious traditions as well as developing skill in the theories and method that undergird the academic study of religion as a human phenomenon. Faculty may recommend language study as deemed appropriate for the student’s course of study.

A.M.R.S. students may pursue the degree in one, focused full-time year of study. Given the demands of their current professions, many more will choose to pursue the degree at a slower pace, earning 9 course credits over as many as three academic years. Tuition is charged on a per course basis, making this option attractive for active professionals who must balance their studies with a busy career. A.M.R.S. students are also encouraged to take advantage of graduate student workshops, lectures and academic clubs.

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) PROGRAM**

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program prepares students for teaching and research in the area of religion. Instruction and research in the Ph.D. program is organized by means of the eleven areas of study: Anthropology and Sociology of Religion, Bible, History of Christianity, History of Judaism, History of Religions, Islamic Studies, Philosophy of Religions, Religions in America, Religion Literature and Visual Culture, Religious Ethics, and Theology. Ph.D. students concentrate their work in an area of study toward the end of achieving a high level of expertise and the capacity to pursue advanced research in it. Ph.D. students also must pursue substantial work in at least one other area of study to prepare broadly for their future careers and to locate their research in contexts outside of, but relevant to, their own concentration.

The Divinity School’s Committee on Degrees—composed of the Dean of Students and three faculty members from across each of the committees of the faculty—supervises the individual doctoral student’s course of study and dissertation proposal. (Students who enter the Ph.D. program from the M.A. in Divinity program must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. not completed as part of their M.A. curriculum.)

**Requirements**

1. Four years of Scholastic Residence.
2. Satisfactory completion (at least B- level) of significant coursework during at least the first two years of study. Normally, Ph.D. students are enrolled in a minimum of two courses per quarter during these first two years. As a part of
this coursework, students must complete one course from each Committee of the faculty.

3. Ph.D. students must demonstrate reading competence in two languages for scholarly research. Students must successfully meet all language reading exam requirements in order to be eligible to take doctoral qualifying exams. This includes any area-specific requirements for ancient and modern languages as well as French, German, or any approved substitution. Under normal circumstances, these languages will be French and German. When a student, in consultation with her or his advisor for the course of study, comes to the judgment that there is in fact a modern scholarly language that is of more immediate relevance to said course of study, the student may petition the Committee on Degrees to replace French or German with that language. Only one such replacement may be requested. The petition must explain the rationale for the replacement, and demonstrate (a) that the replacement language is indeed of central scholarly importance to the student’s program (i.e., that the scholarly literature in the language is significant) and (b) that the language being replaced is not at least equally relevant. The petition should also indicate whether the University offers a reading examination in the language or, in cases when such an examination is unavailable, explain how the student will certify reading competence. Decisions of the Committee are final, and may not be appealed, i.e., such a petition will be reviewed by the Committee once.

4. Approval from the Committee on Degrees of a course of study petition outlining the student’s anticipated program of study through the qualifying examination. (For students in the Divinity School’s M.A. in Divinity program, this petition constitutes part of the application for doctoral admission.) Entering Ph.D. students must submit this petition during their first year in residence. (For further details, see the section “The Course of Study Petition.”

5. Satisfactory completion of courses, colloquia, and assignments that may be stipulated in the specific guidelines of the student’s area of concentration.

6. Satisfactory complete of the second-year progress conference, normally held in the spring quarter of the second year, or the fall of the third year. Progress conferences are held in accordance with the respective area’s guidelines, and will normally include assessment of coursework to date, cogency of the course of study petition, readiness for qualifying examinations, and development of the dissertation project. A report from the advisor and a timeline for the qualifying examinations is submitted to the Dean of Students following the conference.

7. Satisfactory completion of the qualifying examination, which consists of
   a. the four written examinations specified in the student’s petition and approved by the Committee on Degrees,
   b. a research paper written by the student and submitted to all examiners during the first week of the quarter in which the student takes the qualifying examination, and
c. a concluding oral examination focused on the research paper and the written examinations. The oral examination committee must include at least four Divinity School faculty members. (For further details, see the section “The Qualifying Examination,” below.)

8. The completion of teaching assignments equivalent to a total of five (5) teaching points, consistent with the established point system for various levels of teaching appointments currently in effect. The current point value system is available from the Dean of Students. (For example, a teaching assistant appointment is worth one point, and a lecturer appointment is worth two (2) points.) Students ordinarily will begin teaching in the third year, completing two assignments in each of the third and fourth years. A student should consult with the academic advisor to plan for the timing of the qualifying exams and the completion of the teaching assignments.

9. The completion of an acceptable dissertation approved by the student’s established reading committee. The dissertation shall be an original contribution to scholarship in the area of religious inquiry. The dissertation proposal must be submitted no later than one calendar year after the successful completion of the qualifying exams.

10. The student should complete the qualifying examinations and submit the dissertation proposal by the end of the fourth year of residence. The dissertation should be completed within five calendar years of approval of the proposal.

(For further details, see the section “Procedures for Writing the Dissertation.”)

The Course of Study Petition

The course of study petition includes the following:

1. A statement that identifies topics of scholarly interest and a proposal for research.

2. A list of four written examinations drawn from among those offered by the areas of study as best suited to the student’s program. (At least four Divinity School faculty members must participate in the written examinations.)

3. The designation of one faculty member as adviser for the student’s course of study.

The student submits the original hardcopy petition and one electronic copy to the Dean of Students Office by the Friday of the sixth week of the appropriate quarter. The petition is first reviewed by faculty working in the student’s area of concentration, who then refer the petition to the Committee with their recommendation for action.

The Qualifying Examination

Ph.D. students normally take the qualifying examination within three calendar years of approval from the Committee on Degrees of the course of study petition. (The precise timing is determined by the student in consultation with the adviser and other faculty examiners.) The process of study leading up to the examination provides an opportunity for systematic consideration of the student’s field of
professional competence in religious studies, as well as in at least one other related field. The examination itself is intended to demonstrate the student’s general knowledge of the scholarship in these professional fields of competence and also the student’s readiness to pursue a dissertation. The qualifying examination contains both written and oral components. Students register for exams no later than the first week of the quarter in which the exams will be taken. To register, please contact the Assistant Dean of Students no later than the first week of the quarter in which the examinations are to be taken.

The written examinations test the student’s ability to organize, synthesize, and analyze a substantial body of knowledge and reading in response to questions set by the faculty. The student completes four written examinations selected from those offered by the areas of study in the Divinity School. The student will usually complete three examinations in his or her area of concentration and one from another area. Some areas may encourage students to complete two examinations in the area of concentration and two from other areas. Students should consult the respective Area Guidelines, available in the Dean of Students Office, for further details about examinations and oral statement papers.

Each written examination is four hours in length, and students pick up the questions at the Divinity School and return them there. Students may also choose to receive and submit their qualifying exams electronically. (Time will be allowed before and after each exam for pick-up and return. In exceptional cases, space will be provided to write exams in Swift Hall.) The Divinity School faculty regards the optimal length of a student’s answer to any one set of examination questions to be a total of 3,000 to 4,500 words, or ten to fifteen typed, double spaced pages. Students have the options of writing their answers by hand or a word processor.

Based on consultation between the student and the student’s advisor, the research paper will ordinarily have as its topic a subject in the student’s intended area of dissertation research, and should indicate the student’s capacity for writing a dissertation. The paper should be twenty-five to forty pages, typed and double-spaced, and should be submitted to all examiners early in (ideally during the first week of) the quarter in which the student plans to take the qualifying examination.

The oral examination tests the student’s ability to engage in discussion of issues relevant to his or her fields of competence. The written examinations, the published bibliographies for the exams the student is taking, and the research paper form the basis of the oral examination.

The student’s advisor for the course of study convenes the oral examination and is specifically responsible for communicating its result to the student at the conclusion of the examination. The Dean of Students writes to each examinee following the oral examination week to communicate formally the result of his or her qualifying examination.

A student who has not completed the qualifying examination within three years of the approval of the course of study must consult with the dean and the dean of students to establish a satisfactory deadline for its completion.

Although bibliographies for individual exams may change from time to time, a student is entitled to take the qualifying examination based on the bibliography in
effect when his or her course of study petition is approved by the Committee on Degrees, so long as the student takes the examination within five years of that date. A student who has not taken the qualifying examination within that five-year period will ordinarily use the bibliographies in effect at the time the examination is taken. A student who has not completed the qualifying examination and has been out of residence for a total of five years or more must take the examination in effect at the time of resumption of residency.

To achieve a passing grade on the qualifying examination, a student must normally accomplish the following:

1. Score B or higher on all written examinations.
2. Complete the oral examination at a satisfactory level, as determined by the examining committee (this includes production of a satisfactory research document).

In cases where most or all of the written examinations are at the B level, a strong oral examination is necessary in order for the student to pass the qualifying examination. Grades on qualifying examinations are not subject to appeal, and failed qualifying examinations may not be retaken.

Procedures for Writing the Dissertation

Upon completion of the qualifying examination, the student proceeds to the dissertation. Three formal steps organize this process: the dissertation proposal colloquium and subsequent submission of the proposal to the Committee on Degrees, the midpoint review of dissertation research, and the oral defense of the completed dissertation. Throughout the process, the student is responsible for maintaining good contact with the dissertation committee and providing regular updates on progress.

1. The dissertation proposal colloquium, which takes place following completion of the qualifying examination, is a meeting of the student and the dissertation reading committee (normally three members of the faculty—an adviser from the Divinity School faculty and two readers) to review the dissertation proposal. It should be noted that the dissertation adviser may be someone other than the student’s program adviser hitherto. Further details on the dissertation proposal can be found in the “Guidelines of the Committee on Degrees,” available in the Dean of Students Office. During the colloquium the student and the committee should discuss their expectations for their work together, including the timing of reading chapters and the format in which work should be submitted (by email or in hard copy).

When the members of the dissertation reading committee approve the proposal, the student submits the proposal in the form of a formal petition to the Committee on Degrees. Approval of this petition establishes the student as a Ph.D. candidate. A student who has not submitted a dissertation proposal to the Committee on Degrees by the end of the fourth year of residence must consult with the Dean and Dean of Students to establish a satisfactory deadline for submission of the proposal.

2. The midpoint oral review of dissertation research occurs at a time determined by the student in consultation with the adviser, usually after the student has written
two chapters. It provides an opportunity for the student and the reading committee to discuss the work in progress, both to review what has been written and to discuss what needs to be done to complete the dissertation. The adviser should provide written notification of the successful completion of the oral review to the Dean of Students.

3. Students must submit a complete draft of the dissertation to the committee by the middle (5th week) of the quarter before the quarter in which they expect to graduate. Faculty will return comments to the student by the first day of the next quarter. This will allow the student 5 weeks to complete any necessary revisions and to obtain the committee’s final approval before submitting the final copy to the Dissertation Office in time to graduate that quarter. The oral defense of the dissertation is a requirement that may be waived upon the recommendation of the dissertation committee and the approval of the Dean. Guidelines for formatting, and dates of submission of the final dissertation to the Dissertation Office, can be found online at http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/phd/

The student must complete the dissertation within five calendar years after establishing Ph.D. candidacy, unless further extension is approved by the Committee on Degrees in consultation with the dissertation adviser. Extension of this five-year period will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

Guidelines for Progress in Ph.D. Studies

The Divinity School faculty has established a set of guidelines for normal progress through the Ph.D. program, as follows:

1. Approval of the course of study petition by the end of the first year of full-time residence.
2. Demonstration of competence in French and German by the end of the second year of full-time residence. This requirement must be successfully completed in order to take doctoral qualifying exams.
3. Completion of the progress conference, as stipulated by the area of study, normally by the end of the second year or the autumn of the third year of full-time residence. The progress conference must be completed in order to take doctoral qualifying exams.
4. Completion of the qualifying examinations, normally by the end of the third year of full-time residence.
5. Approval of the dissertation proposal by the end of the fourth year of full-time residence.
6. Completion of the dissertation within five calendar years of approval of the dissertation proposal.

Students should plan their program of study in accordance with these guidelines, consulting as appropriate their faculty advisor and the Dean of Students. A student who anticipates difficulty in meeting one of the guidelines should discuss this with the faculty advisor and the Dean of Students.

The deans, in consultation with faculty in the appropriate area of study, may on rare occasions advise a student to discontinue doctoral studies. Such discussions
may occur between approval of the course of study petition and the qualifying examination, or between completion of the qualifying examination and approval of the dissertation proposal.

A student’s Ph.D. studies may be terminated formally by failure to produce a satisfactory course of study petition that is approved by the Committee on Degrees; failure of the qualifying examination; failure to prepare a satisfactory dissertation proposal in an appropriate period of time (by the end of the fourth year of full-time residence); or failure to write a dissertation, within five years of establishing Ph.D. candidacy, that is deemed satisfactory by the dissertation committee.

**MINISTRY PROGRAMS**

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program is a course of professional study, preparing students for careers in religious leadership. Since the School’s inception, our ministry programs have generally trained students for various forms of Christian ministry; beginning in 2010, the M.Div. program has also welcomed Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim students, and is committed to developing the resources and sensibilities necessary to prepare leaders for a variety of religious communities and context. In addition to the standard three-year Master of Divinity degree, the Divinity School offers dual-degree programs in cooperation with the University’s Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, the Law School, and the School of Social Service Administration, enabling students to prepare for careers that combine ministry with public policy, law, or social work. Additionally, Ph.D. students in the Divinity School with an interest in ministry may apply to complete a year of coursework and field work leading to the granting of a certificate in ministerial studies.

Ministry students at the Divinity School access the rich resources for scholarship provided by the entire curriculum of the Divinity School and the many graduate divisions of the University. They are also able to take courses offered by the city’s several theological schools, and to engage in training and learning experiences throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Within walking distance of the Divinity School are major theological institutions of the Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Disciples of Christ communions; it is a short commute to similar institutions representing the Unitarian, Episcopal, Methodist, and Evangelical traditions. The city and its environs are home to an abundance of religions communities, professional training centers (hospitals offering Clinical Pastoral Education [CPE] and chaplaincy training programs, counseling centers, etc.), social service centers, community organizations, and political action groups. The M.Div. program encourages students to engage robustly in the practical formation offered by these centers of life and work. International Ministry Study Grants enabling M.Div. students to study ministry in other global contexts are also available.

The M.Div. and certification for ministry programs are planned and supervised by the Committee on Ministry Studies of the Divinity School. The Director of Ministry Studies acts as a general advisor to all students in ministry programs and assists them in establishing an advisory relationship with particular faculty members with whom the specialized components of the student’s program are
designed. The Director, in conjunction with the Director of Field Education, also advises all students in the ministry program on field placement and denominational requirements.

MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)

The M.Div. program seeks to prepare religious and spiritual leaders representative of a variety of faith traditions who are equipped to serve in diverse contexts, and who will continue to learn and grow lifelong in the practice of ministry. To this end, the MDiv curriculum provides a sequence of studies that requires the student to (1) establish a breadth of competence in religious studies; (2) develop a thorough understanding of textual, historical, and theological foundations for ministry; and (3) integrate this classical program of learning with rigorous and reflective practice.

The field education component of the program offers students rich opportunities for practical experience in both congregational settings and alternative forms of ministry. First year students experience selected ministry sites through an introduction to Chicago’s south side neighborhoods during their colloquium, Introduction to Ministry Studies. Second-year students spend one year of supervised field education in a faith community in the Chicago area, chosen by the student in consultation with the field education director and the community’s leaders. This assignment aims to provide broad exposure to the life of a faith community and various practices of ministry. An additional fieldwork component offers the opportunity for students to engage in a unit of hospital chaplaincy, campus ministry, community advocacy, or other specialized training in some aspect of ministry. The fieldwork requirement may be satisfied by working at the site full time for three months or spreading out the work over a longer period for the same number of hours.

Three exercises in practical theological and spiritual reflection—one in each year of the M.Div. program—provide a common structure for the work of all students in the program. These include: Theology in the Public Square course (taken the first year, taught in winter quarter) along with the Introduction to Ministry Studies (a year-long integration seminar during the first year); the second-year Arts of Ministry sequence with the concurrent year-long Practicum; and the third-year Senior Thesis Seminar culminating in the Senior Ministry Project presentation.

Theology in the Public Square, taken by all first-year students, analyzes the historical and cultural contexts of particular instances of American religious communities and religious leadership, while in Introduction to Ministry Studies (also known as Colloquium) students identify, examine, and synthesize the components of practical reflection, the core of ministerial practice. Students are encouraged to think about their preparation for leadership as one oriented towards multiple publics: the religious/spiritual community, the academy, and wider society.

The Arts of Ministry sequence in Worship and Preaching; Pastoral Care and Counseling; and Community, Leadership, and Change offers coursework in the practice of ministry. On the one hand, it relates these perennial features of ministry to the Divinity School’s theological and cultural exploration of religious and spiritual leadership, ritual and practice. On the other hand, it relates this reflective
awareness of religious practices to the concrete experiences of the second-year field education settings.

The Senior Ministry Project consists of a thesis and a public presentation that draw together the student's work in historical, systematic, and practical theology to arrive at an appropriate and intellectually plausible judgment about some aspect of religious/spiritual thought or practice. The specific balance among historical, systematic, and practical theological resources will vary according to the student's interests and the faculty advisor with whom she or he works.

As students engage in these exercises of practical theological reflection and in fieldwork, they are also expected to extend their knowledge base in historical and theological studies with additional courses in the sacred texts and history of their faith tradition. They will also select an upper-level theology course for which they will produce a paper in constructive theology—addressing a central theological question, reckoning with the position of a major thinker, and coming to a critical judgment of the question. M.Div. students are also encouraged to investigate course offerings in other departments of the University which might broaden a student's cultural competence or deepen the skill set in a particular area of interest. M.Div. students often find the coursework at SSA, the Harris School, the Division of Social Sciences, and the Committee on Human Rights particularly useful.

Requirements

The M.Div. degree requires registration for three full years of scholastic residence, with the completion of a minimum of 28 courses distributed across the Divinity School's areas of study. Along with acquiring a broad foundational knowledge about religion, students are encouraged to anchor themselves more deeply to one of the school's discourses: historical studies, constructive studies, or religion and the human sciences.

1. **These requirements are most often completed during the first year of study:**
   a. The masters-level introductory course, “Introduction to the Study of Religion” (required for all first-year masters students).
   b. Theology in the Public Square
   c. Introduction to Hebrew Bible or a comparable course in the writings of the student's tradition
   d. Introduction to New Testament or a comparable course in the writings of the student's tradition
   e. Introduction to Theology or a comparable course in the writings of the student's tradition
   f. Participation in the weekly reflection seminar and field education experience for first-year students, Introduction to Ministry Studies: Colloquium
   g. Acquisition of basic skills in either New Testament Greek or Biblical Hebrew, or Quranic Arabic, usually by completion of the two-quarter sequence of grammar instruction in the fall and winter quarters, followed by a course in scriptural or textual exegesis employing the language.
2. **These requirements are most often completed during the second year of study:**
   a. The Arts of Ministry: a three quarter sequence of Worship and Preaching, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Community, Leadership, and Change.
   b. Three quarters of field education in a religious community, including successful completion of the practicum, Practice of Ministry I and II, which meets weekly across the entire second year.
   c. One course, selected in consultation with the instructor and the Director of Ministry Studies, for which the student submits a constructive theological paper; to be completed before participation in the Senior Ministry Project seminar.

3. **These requirements are most often completed during the third year of study:**
   a. Completion of the Senior Ministry Project, including enrollment in the Senior Ministry Thesis Seminar (CHRM 42800) in the winter quarter. The project consists of two parts:
      i. A thirty-five page thesis in practical theology
      ii. The oral presentation of the project in an appropriate public forum that includes ministry students, members of the Committee on Ministry Studies, and wider audiences, as appropriate

4. **These requirements may be completed at any time across the three years of M.Div. residence:**
   a. At least two courses in the History of Christian Thought and History of Theological Ethics sequences (HCHR 30100, 30200, 30300, 30400, 30700, 31000; or THEO 31100, 31200), or two courses in the History of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, or the tradition to which a student belongs.
   b. At least one course in History of Religions, Religion and Literature, Philosophy of Religion, Anthropology and Sociology of Religion, or a course in a religious tradition other than the student’s own.
   c. An additional unit of approved and supervised fieldwork.

M.Div. students may take up to four courses at Chicago-area theological schools, ordinarily for purposes of meeting ordination requirements. Each course must be approved in advance by the Director of Ministry Studies and the Dean of Students in the Divinity School. In special circumstances, with the approval of the Director and the Committee on Ministry Studies, students may take up to two additional courses in these schools.

All M.Div. students are expected to maintain a grade average of at least B-. A student whose grade average falls below B- may be placed on academic probation or asked by the Committee on Ministry Studies to terminate his or her program of study. Students are advised to avoid the accumulation of incompletes on their transcript. Students who have three or more incomplete courses on their transcripts may be restricted from registration until progress is made towards resolving incomplete work.
Financial Aid

The Divinity School recognizes that most candidates for ministry cannot anticipate a career that includes substantial financial remuneration, and makes every effort to relieve a significant part of the financial burden involved in preparation for ministry. M.Div. students qualify for various forms of Divinity School financial assistance. These include:

1. Entering Fellowships in Ministry Studies.
2. Tuition scholarships that pay from half to full tuition. These awards are based on academic merit; they are also renewable.
3. Field education stipends of $2,000 per quarter to all second-year M.Div. students participating in the Arts of Ministry sequence while serving a local congregation.
4. Fieldwork stipends of $1,500 to support the completion of the fieldwork placement. When such placement requires a registration fee (e.g., for Clinical Pastoral Education), the Divinity School subsidizes such a charge up to $500.

Selected Past Courses. Please check our website for current and upcoming courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHRM 30200</td>
<td>The Public Church in America</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRM 30500</td>
<td>Colloquium: Introduction to Ministry Studies</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRM 35500</td>
<td>Arts of Ministry: Worship</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRM 35600</td>
<td>Arts of Ministry: Preaching</td>
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<td>CHRM 35700</td>
<td>Arts Of Ministry: Pastoral Care</td>
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<td>CHRM 36000</td>
<td>Advanced Preaching Seminar</td>
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<td>CHRM 36700</td>
<td>Adv Sem In Pastoral Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRM 40600</td>
<td>Practice of Ministry I</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>CHRM 41300</td>
<td>Nature in The Church</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>CHRM 42500</td>
<td>Sem: Senior Ministry Project</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRM 43000</td>
<td>Dying in the Modern World</td>
<td>50</td>
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Certification in Ministerial Studies for Ph.D. Students

The program of Certification in Ministerial Studies is intended for students whose ultimate educational and professional goals require scholarly attainment in one of the fields of religious studies, and who desire as well the professional educational qualifications for religious leadership. A sequence that is pursued during one full year of a student’s Ph.D. program, the certification program includes requirements in field education, arts of ministry, and major papers in theology, ecclesiology, and a problem in ministry. To enter the program, a student must have the consent of his or her academic adviser and the Director of Ministry Studies, and submit a petition to the Committee on Degrees in the winter quarter prior to the desired certification year. Before receiving the certification, the student must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree, including the dissertation. In general, the certification program will add one full year to the normal student career. The requirements for the Certification in Ministerial Studies are as follows:
1. Completion of nine approved courses. The student is required to take the three-quarter sequence in the Arts of Ministry in the autumn, winter, and spring quarters.

2. Completion of three quarters of congregation-based education and the Field Education Practicum.

3. Submission of three papers on ministry to an examining committee. One paper must be an exposition of foundational theological resources on which the student draws in conceptualizing and performing ministry. A second paper must develop a normative understanding of religious community in relation to the foundational position. At third paper must explore a problematic context within which the religious community exists and its ministries are performed. This paper may focus upon the personal, societal, or cultural dimensions of a problem. The student should select courses other than those in the Arts of Ministry sequence to assist in the preparation of the three papers on ministry.

4. Successful completion of an oral examination based on the three papers on ministry. The oral examination will be conducted by a committee of at least four faculty members, including a chairperson. The examining committee may recommend additional requirements to be fulfilled by the student before awarding the Certification in Ministerial Studies.

5. The Certification in Ministerial Studies is conferred upon successful completion of the above program and the successful completion of all requirements for the Ph.D. degree, including the dissertation. In no case will the Certification in Ministerial Studies be given to a student who fails to complete all requirements of the Ph.D. program.

**DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

The Divinity School offers dual degree programs with the School of Social Service Administration and the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies. These programs serve students who wish to combine education for ministry with training for social work or expertise in public policy. In addition to making these pursuits formally possible at the University, the dual degree programs allow students to complete a M.Div. and an A.M. in social work or public policy in four years, rather than five if the two degrees are pursued separately. Students in the dual degree programs register for eight quarters in the Divinity School and four quarters in the cooperating school. The recommended arrangement is the completion of two years (six quarters) at the Divinity School, followed by one year and one quarter (four quarters) at the SSA or Harris School, followed by two final quarters at the Divinity School. Students enrolled in a dual program complete all of the ordinary requirements for the M.Div., but need take only twenty-four courses for the degree with SSA, or 22 courses for the degree with the Harris School, rather than twenty-eight.

In the fall of 2002, the Divinity School and the Law School inaugurated new dual degree programs for students whose professional plans require training both in religion and in law. Students may now apply to do a dual A.M.R.S./J.D., A.M./J.D.,
M.Div./J.D., or Ph.D./J.D. For more information about these programs, please contact the Dean of Students Office.

APPLICATION

Applicants must gain acceptance to both schools to enroll in a dual degree program. Normally, the prospective student will apply to both schools prior to matriculation, and indicate on each application his or her intent to pursue the dual degree. First-year M.Div. students may, however, make application during that year to the relevant A.M. program and enter the dual degree program upon acceptance by the SSA or the Harris School. At each school, offers of admission are for the fall quarter. Admission to one program is advantageous, but does not guarantee admission to the other; be advised that these programs have admission limits and so it is important to apply to SSA or Harris School at least a year before you intend to begin there.

FINANCIAL AID

Students enrolled in the dual degree program are eligible for financial assistance from the institution at which they are registering, that is, for eight quarters of assistance from the Divinity School and four quarters from the SSA or the Harris School. The financial aid policies of the three schools differ significantly, and students should anticipate that tuition charges and financial assistance will vary depending on where they are registered for a particular quarter. Registration Students in the dual degree program register for a total of eight quarters at the Divinity School and four quarters at the SSA or the Harris School. As mentioned above, the recommended sequence is for the student to spend the first two years (six quarters) at the Divinity School, the third year (three quarters) and the first quarter (fall) of the fourth year at the SSA or Harris School, and the final two quarters (winter and spring) at the Divinity School. This arrangement has the greatest potential to ensure that the student will participate fully in each program. It is essential that the student devote a full academic year to the required curriculum of the SSA or the Harris School, and, given the collegial nature of the program, it is best for ministry students to complete the first two years of the M.Div. in the company of their entering class. This sequence also has administrative advantages. Each school counts quarters of registration as a requirement for the degree, so the student must be registered for the required number of quarters at the respective school. It is also least disruptive to the student's registration and financial arrangements (for example, for loans and work/study eligibility) to minimize the number of times that the student officially transfers from one school to another.

FIELD WORK (SSA DUAL DEGREE ONLY)

The M.Div. from the Divinity School and the A.M. from the School of Social Service Administration each require students to complete two field education components. For the Divinity School, these requirements are (a) the field education internship (the second-year placement in a local congregation under the supervision of a Teaching Pastor/Supervisor and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement) and (b) another unit of field work (a more focused field experience, usually completed after the field education internship). The SSA
requires two year-long field work assignments. Students in the dual degree program must meet the field education requirements of both schools, but are usually able to arrange for the second year-long field work requirement at the SSA to fulfill the second field work requirement of the Divinity School as well. They are thus able to complete the field education requirements for both degrees with three field placements, rather than the four that would be necessary if the degrees were completed separately. This arrangement is subject to the approval of the Director of Ministry Studies at the Divinity School. Approval should be secured before beginning the second year-long assignment for the SSA.

CURRICULUM AND INTEGRATION

The dual degree programs have much to recommend them, but they do not provide the student with as much latitude in arranging his or her curriculum as would be the case if the student were pursuing the degrees separately. Particularly in the fourth year, when completing the second year of study at the SSA or the Harris School, the Senior Ministry Thesis, and culminating coursework at the Divinity School, students can experience conflicts in scheduling that, while inevitable, nonetheless frustrate good intentions. It is wise for students to aim to complete a substantial portion of the coursework required for the M.Div. during the first two years at the Divinity School. We encourage students to use the Senior Ministry Thesis as a way to formally synthesize their work in the two programs. It is highly recommended that students retain coadvisers, one from the Divinity School, and one from the SSA or Harris School, to assist them in a Senior Ministry Thesis that will facilitate this integration.