

## Methodist Theological School in Ohio



### So... what courses should I take?

#### **Step 1 – Look at your degree requirements**

Get to know the courses you'll be required to take. You can find degree requirements in the catalog, and also on the Registrar's web page. The following link will take you to worksheets or "degree grids" for each degree program, including specializations in the M.Div. Look at course descriptions (online, from the catalog) and make note of prerequisites. Prerequisites are also listed on the M.Div. and MACM course frequency sheets which are linked from the Registration Materials webpage.

<http://www.mtso.edu/current/AcademicForms/DegreeGrids.htm>. Students who have undergraduate majors in religion or theology may be interested in pursuing substitutions of advanced courses for introductory courses. Please contact the registrar for more information about this process.

#### **Step 2 – Consider your courseload**

The normal full-time courseload for students is 27-30 semester hours per year. For most students this will mean 12-13 hours in each Fall and Spring semester, plus one or two intensive courses in January and Summer terms. Please refer to the chart "MTSO Courseload Recommendations for Full-Time Students". <http://www.mtso.edu/current/courseloadrecomm.pdf>

#### **Step 3 – Look at the course schedules**

Be proactive in planning your schedule. While you are only turning in your course selections, it is important to look ahead so you get the big picture. Use the list of recommended courses for new students to see courses by degree program for an entire academic year. Also use the course frequency charts to see when required courses may be offered next.

<http://www.mtso.edu/current/registrationmaterials.htm>

#### **Step 4 – Select courses from the Classical Division**

Courses from these classical disciplines (Bible, Church History, Theology, Ethics, and the Study of Religion & Interreligious Relations) will be the core of your theological education. It is important to take the introductory level courses in these areas during your first year because they are the prerequisites to the upper-level courses you will want to choose from in subsequent terms. (Note: some students find taking the two introductory level Bible courses at the same time to be difficult.) If you have an interest in Hebrew or Greek language, please see the flyer found here: <http://www.mtso.edu/current/biblicallanguagesflyer.pdf>

## **Step 5 – Take at least one course under Practical Theology Studies**

The Practical Theology Division includes Church Leadership, Christian Education, Homiletics, Pastoral Care, and Worship & Music. Students taking courses in the Practical Theology Division will not only experience a learning environment rooted in traditional scholarship of reading, research and writing but also scholarship of interviews, observations, action-reflection, and case studies.

M.Div. students will take more courses in the Classical Division, so choosing one Practical Theology course the first semester is recommended. MACE and MACM students will take more Practical Theology courses, so choosing two courses from this division is recommended. MTS students should not take any practical courses their first semester, as they only have room for two practical courses in the entire degree. Any M.Div. student attending MTSO on a full-time basis (e.g. enrolled in nine or more semester hours) should strongly consider choosing a schedule with at least one course from Practical Theology. For students taking a “full load” (12 or more hours), it is essential. MACM and MACE students might find that taking two courses from this division works better for their requirement planning.

Most degree programs have room for a certain number of credits to be earned through elective courses. Many elective courses are offered on a rotation and not scheduled on an annual basis, so if you see an elective course offered in an area of interest, think about how it fits into your degree requirements before registering for it. **However, it is also important to plan electives carefully because you cannot receive federal financial aid for courses that do not fall within the required hours for your degree.**

Your denomination or conference may have requirements for ordination that go beyond MTSO’s requirements for earning a degree. If you seek ordination, you will need to incorporate those courses as electives in your degree program. For example, new United Methodist seminary students are required to complete 12 semester hours of courses in United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity, as well as a course in Evangelism and Mission, before they can be ordained. It has been recommended that two-thirds of these courses should be completed prior to the commissioning interview. (UM History, Doctrine and Polity are upper-level courses, however, and should **not** be chosen by first-year students.)

Individual UM conferences may require course work beyond what the denomination requires. UM students should check with their conference registrars to find out if any such additional requirements exist for them.

Finally, other denominations often have their own requirements for seminary students. Common examples of this would be course work in Biblical languages, course work in Mission and Evangelism, or course work in the Study of Religion & Interreligious Relations. Students from other denominations should check with their denominational officials to determine if such requirements exist for them.

## **Step 6 – Choose a “Consultative Group/Educated Spirit” section**

All new students (except MTS and certificate students) are required to select a section of CG-100, Consultative Group/Educated Spirit, also fondly referred to as C-Group. C-Group carries one (1) semester hour of credit. C-Groups are scheduled during meal times so they do not conflict with other classes or with chapel. Some groups make sharing a meal part of the experience. Enrollment in C-Group during your first term will allow you to become part of a small, close-knit group of new seminary students who support each other during

their first year. Additionally, you will have an academic advisor at MTSO (who may or may not be your C-Group leader). Later you will meet with him or her to pick courses for future terms. See the list of C-Groups on the Fall schedule.

### **A FEW ADDITIONAL NOTES. . .**

You cannot be officially registered for classes until you have been admitted to a degree or certificate program, or as an occasional student or other appropriate temporary status, and have paid your nonrefundable \$100 deposit to MTSO Admissions.

At this time there is no online registration for new students, so please complete the paper registration form that is found on the Registration Materials web page. It can be mailed, scanned and e-mailed, or faxed; but it does require your signature. Availability in some courses is limited, so it is wise to list alternate course selections when sending in your registration. Use the back of your form if necessary to list these alternate choices

Each student will be assigned a Faculty member who will be their Academic Advisor. If you would like to make an appointment to register in person with me, I would be glad to meet with you. If you believe that you need to talk to your Academic Advisor before you can choose your courses, please call or e-mail and I will arrange for your advisor to be assigned and ask that person to contact you.

#### **My contact information:**

Sue Lamphere, Registrar  
(740) 362-3344  
[registrar@mtso.edu](mailto:registrar@mtso.edu)

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions about scheduling. If I can't help you myself, I can put you in touch with someone who can.

**We look forward to having you on campus soon!**

**Methodist Theological School in Ohio**  
**Fall 2010 Recommended Courses for New Students**

<b>Crs No/Sec</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Day/Time</b>	<b>M.Div.</b>	<b>MACM</b>	<b>MTS</b>	<b>MACE</b>
CE-101-1	Intro to Christian Ethics	Tues 2:00-4:50	X	X	X	X
	<i>This is a required course for all degrees. It is also offered in Spring 2011.</i>					
CH-125-1	Church History I	Wed 2:00-4:50	X	X	X	X
	<i>This is a required course for all degrees. It is next offered in Fall 2011. UM students should take it now, and CH235 in Spring 2011, in order to meet prerequisites for denominational courses.</i>					
CT-149-H*	Intro to Theology	Sat 9:00-4:00	X	X	X	X
	<i>This is a required course for all degrees. It is taught in a hybrid format, which means it meets both face-to-face and online. There are 5 all day Saturday meetings plus an additional 10 hours of online work. See schedule for more details. CT-149 is also offered in Spring 2011.</i>					
ED-012-1	Adolescent World	Thurs 8:30-11:20	X (elective)	see note	see note	X (rational elec.)
	<i>This course can be used for an M.Div. elective, for the M.Div. Youth Ministry specialization, for the MACE rationalized electives and MACE Youth Ministry specialization. The MACM Track I has room for ONE non-PC elective. The MTS has room for TWO electives from any division. This course is offered every other year, so Youth Ministry students should take it now.</i>					
HB-110-1	Intro to Hebrew Bible	Thurs 6:30-9:20	X	X	X	X
	<i>This is a required course for all degrees. It is also offered in Spring 2011 and Summer 2011.</i>					
HB-140-1**	Elementary Biblical Hebrew	Tu + Th 12:30-1:45	X (elective)	N/A	X (elective)	N/A
	<i>Some denominations, such as PC (USA) require Biblical Languages. This course would count as an elective in the M.Div., and the Spring HB-240 course would meet the 200-level Bible requirement for the M.Div. MTS students could use this course as an elective, and the Spring HB-240 course would meet the 200-level Bible requirement for the MTS. Hebrew is taught every other year, alternating with Greek.</i>					
NT-110-1	Intro to New Testament	Wed 8:30-11:20	X	X	X	X
	<i>This is a required course for all degrees. It is also offered in Spring 2011.</i>					
PC-100-1	Foundations for Pastoral Care	Tues 8:30-11:20	X	X	see note	X (rational elec.)
	<i>This course is required for the M.Div. and the MACM Tracks I &amp; III. MACE students may use it for a rationalized elective. MTS students have room for TWO electives from any division, so this could be used there as well. MACM students wanting to take a January course could take PC-371 Grief Care &amp; Counseling if they take PC-100 in Fall 2010. It is also offered in Spring 2011.</i>					

Crs No/Sec	Title	Day/Time	M.Div.	MACM	MTS	MACE
PC-155-1	Intro Chemical Dependency	Wed 6:30-9:20	X (elective)	X	see note	X (rational elec.)
	<i>This course is required for the MACM Tracks II &amp; III. It could be used for the M.Div. specialization in Addiction Ministry. MTS students would be allowed to use it as one of their two electives. MACE students may be able to use it as a rationalized elective. This course is offered next in Fall 2011. MACM students should take it now.</i>					
PT-100-1	Leadership, Learning & Comm.	Tues 6:30-9:20	X	see note	see note	X
	<i>This course is required for the M.Div. and the MACE degrees. MACM Track I students have room for one elective, and MTS students have room for two electives, so this course could be used there as well. This course is also offered in Spring 2011. UM students wanting to take DS-370 UM Polity in January 2011 should take this course now.</i>					
SR-150-1***	World Religions	Mon 7:00-9:45	X (ecum., elective)	X (substitute)	X	X (rational elec.)
	<i>A course in the Study of Religion and Interreligious Relations is required for the MTS degree. M.Div. students may use this course to meet the ecumenical requirement. MACM Track II or III students, with advisor approval, may use this course as a substitute for HB-110, CH-125, or CE-101. Only one substitution is allowed. MACE students may use this course as a rationalized elective. This course is offered once a year.</i>					
WM-100-1	Intro to Worship Music	Thurs 2:00-4:50	X	see note	see note	X
	<i>This course is required for the M.Div. and the MACE degrees. MACM Track I students have room for one elective, and MTS students have room for two electives, so this course could be used there as well. This course is also offered in January 2011. Students wanting to maximize their courseloads should save this course for January if there are no other January courses to take.</i>					

Please refer to the 2009-10 Academic Catalog for course descriptions. SR-150 can be found under WR-150, and PT-100 is a new course described as follows:

**PT-100: Leadership, Learning and Community Formation.** The purpose is to explore teaching and learning in faith community contexts in a post-Christendom, globalizing era. Students will develop a clear theology and philosophy of transformative education and leadership, a good understanding of personal leadership and teaching styles, and a personal understanding of vocation as educator and leader. No prerequisite. 3 credit hours.

Please contact the Registrar's Office with questions: registrar@mtso.edu or 740-362-3344.