



## Why the Master of Divinity?

The M.Div. focuses on spiritual formation of the person for leadership and participation in God's mission in the church and the world. Our M.Div. is designed to prepare graduates to serve as:

- Congregational ministers
- Christian educators
- Campus ministers
- Chaplains, and various other ministry settings, including social justice and non-profit ministries.

We are committed to providing graduates with wisdom and discernment as they enter into a ministry field or continue to expand in their current ministry. We also offer a M.Div. Missions Track for those interested in international or domestic missions. We believe a theological education is important no matter how or where you serve.

## Why ACU?

Here at ACU, our faculty is dedicated to helping students with their spiritual formation as well as their academic achievements. Our students are involved in weekly, faculty-led mentoring groups that provide vocational discernment, clarity and close-knit community.

If you are thinking of getting involved in a ministry or nonprofit, Abilene is the place to be. With a church or nonprofit on almost every corner we will help you find a home and a place to serve. We want to open doors for you to have a broad contextual experience during your time in graduate work. Come to ACU for a time of spiritual growth and encouragement from faculty, staff and fellow students.

## Online Option

Through our program for non-residential students, a Master of Divinity may be earned online. The online M.Div. provides an opportunity for students around the world to remain in their current context while taking coursework to advance their ministerial leadership skills.

All online students must also complete at least 12 hours of their degree in residence. Residential hours may be met through one-week or weekend intensive courses in Abilene, Dallas or at one of our partner campuses in Ghana or Swaziland. All other degree requirements are the same for both our residential and online students.

\* Offered as approved exceptions to Degree Program Standard A, section A.3.1.3 and Standard B, section B.3.1.3.

## Degree Process

The M.Div. program is a 72-hour, non-thesis formational degree. To complete the degree, students must take a comprehensive exam over the English Bible. Additionally, at the mid-point and at the end of their program each student must undergo a portfolio review. All degree requirements must be completed within 10 years.

If you have some advanced theology study or extensive undergraduate studies in Bible you may be eligible for up to 18 hours of advanced placement. Talk with a GST advisor to learn more!

72

Number of credit hours

36

Months average time to completion



On campus in Abilene, Texas or online

# MASTER OF DIVINITY

Are you interested in church ministry, non-profit leadership or are feeling called to a deeper theological understanding?

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is a comprehensive, professional theological degree designed to equip students for traditional and emerging Christian ministries while also providing students the foundation for study in Ph.D., Th.D. and D.Min. programs.



## Core Curriculum

- GST Orientation
- Foundations of the Theology of Ministry
- Contexts of Ministry
- Field Education Contextual Immersion or Healthcare Ministry
- The Practice of Ministerial Leadership
- Critical Interpretation of the Old Testament
- Critical Interpretation of the New Testament
- Advanced Restoration History
- Elementary Greek I and II
- Elementary Hebrew I and II
- History of Christianity I and II
- Systematic Theology I
- Christian Spiritual Formation
- Electives in biblical studies, church history, systematic theology, ministry and missions

## 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 from an accredited institution;
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](mailto:gst@acu.edu).



### Program Advisor, M.Div. Ministry Track

Dr. Kelli (Bryant '04) Gibson  
[kelli.gibson@acu.edu](mailto:kelli.gibson@acu.edu)



### Program Advisor, M.Div. Missions Track

Dr. Chris Flanders ('98)  
[chris.flanders@acu.edu](mailto:chris.flanders@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. Also, the flexibility of our online options allows students to stay where they are and keep their current job.

## Alumni Testimonial Jake Jacobson ('16)

Associate Minister  
Skillman Church of Christ,  
Dallas, Texas



"Throughout the program, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that in addition to giving practical teaching on ministry, I also gained the support of the faculty as a student and, even beyond that, in my ministry today. The lessons in the classroom are valuable and practical (even if you struggle with Greek and Hebrew like I did!); the relationships with professors who want to see you succeed are incalculable. The GST will help to provide training for ministry that will make an impact years down the road in whichever ministry setting in which you find yourself."



**ABILENE CHRISTIAN**  
Graduate School of Theology

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