

Ministry (MA)

Graduate Chair, Michael Severe

The mission of the Master of Arts in Ministry is to prepare leaders for the challenges of designing effective 21st century ministry. In support of Taylor's overall mission and in partnership with a number of churches and denominations, the program prepares spiritually maturing ministry leaders who facilitate the processes of spiritual formation in others for compassionate and effective service to the Church and the world. The program provides a foundation for students who are pursuing careers in church ministry, para-church ministry, or graduate school. The program is characterized by a whole-person focus. Courses balance theory and practice as the biblical, theological, historical, philosophical, and educational foundations of ministry are explored. Spiritual formation in the context of a learning community is emphasized. Students learn collaborative thinking, planning, programming, and evaluation strategies while they are using and identifying their spiritual gifts in ministry and for impact in the world.

Ministry (MA)

The Master of Arts degree in Ministry requires 36 hours. Most courses are face-to-face, 8-week modular courses in seminar form, held at our ministry partner locations in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Students typically carry out their 6 hours of ministry residency courses while participating in 6 semesters of ministry work at an approved ministry site.

Requirements

MAM 500	3	Ministry Seminar	MAM 620	3	Leading in Ministry
MAM 540	3	Teaching for Transformation	MAM 640	3	Equipping the Saints
MAM 560	3	Spiritual Formation for Ministry	MAM 660	3	Discipleship, Evangelism and the Mission of the Church
MAM 580	3	Old Testament Interpretation and Theology	MAM 680	3	Ministry Capstone
MAM 590	3	New Testament Interpretation and Theology			
MAM 600	3	Christian Theology: Historical and Contemporary Issues			

Select 6 credits from the following:

MAM 520* 1 Ministry Residency

*MAM 520 must be taken 6 times.

Ministry Courses

MAM 500 Ministry Seminar

3 hours

This introductory cohort course includes examination of the biblical foundations for balanced ministry, the calling of the minister, as well as an introduction to the disciple-making ministries of the church. Selected topics, current issues, and procedures necessary for the effective functioning of the church's disciple-making ministries will be explored. Culture and the practice of ministry are specific areas of interest. Students interact with each other in the areas of ideas and practical experiences in ministry. The course endeavors to examine and integrate church ministries in a cumulative, group learning experience.

MAM 520 Ministry Residency

1 hour

This course is designed for the student to put into practice the theology, principles and theories studied in the classroom. Each student will assume approved ministry assignments through a residency in a local church or parachurch organization, minister in that position for a minimal number of hours, fulfill a number of core and specialization experiences, complete reading and reflection assignments, and evaluate the internship experience. Weekly supervisor meetings and exposure to varieties of leaders in ministry is included.

MAM 540 Teaching for Transformation

3 hours

Guided by the Great Commission instruction to "make disciples by teaching" the class explores models of interactive teaching that helps ministry leaders connect God's Word to the lives of learners. This course introduces and integrates elements of educational theory, human development and practice in order to cultivate effective biblical teaching in various ministry (nonformal educational) contexts that are concerned with Christian discipleship.

MAM 560 Spiritual Formation for Ministry

3 hours

Students' capacity for ministry is enhanced in this course by facilitating personal spiritual growth and development. Emphasis is given to doctrines of sanctification, anthropology, and hamartiology and to the ways theological truths address life issues such as marriage, sexuality, use of spiritual gifts, temptation, etc. Spiritual disciplines, especially the practice of engaging scripture, are explored interactively, giving students models to apply in their ministry contexts.

MAM 580 Old Testament Interpretation and Theology

3 hours

A study of the interpretation and overall theology of the Old Testament with special attention to the Bible's storyline and the history of redemption. Students will be taught to interpret the Old Testament with sensitivity to language and discourse, literary genre, historical context, and biblical theology.

MAM 590 New Testament Interpretation and Theology

3 hours

A study of the interpretation and overall theology of the New Testament with special attention to the Bible's storyline and the history of redemption. Students will be taught to interpret the New Testament with sensitivity to language and discourse, literary genre, historical context, and biblical theology.

MAM 600 Christian Theology: Historical and Contemporary Issues

3 hours

An examination and analysis of historical and contemporary theological subjects that have a direct bearing on current church doctrine and practice. Historical topics include the Trinity, salvation, the humanity and deity of Christ, theological anthropology and the corporate life and practices of the church. Contemporary topics include the nature and authority of the Bible, the Holy Spirit, identity and sexuality, Christianity and pluralism, and eschatology.

MAM 620 Leading in Ministry

3 hours

Effective leadership emerges from a leader's character and is a dynamic process. Leaders will develop specific competencies and points of view related to character formation for ministry. This course is designed to facilitate the development of the student's skills in leadership, organization, ethics, and management related to specific ministry situations. Special emphasis is placed on analyzing "core" issues in the leader's life and ministry/vocation in ways that will assist students in understanding their experience thus far and in anticipating future developmental experiences.

MAM 640 Equipping the Saints

3 hours

Survey the elements of leadership and theology for the efficient and effective mobilization of church and parachurch ministry. This study will guide students in understanding the roles of vocational staff members and volunteer staff. Students should develop the ability to apply biblical principles to leadership of the church and leading through change and conflict management. This course will provide the theoretical and practical framework for understanding the significance of organizational culture and its impact on Christian education and disciple-making ministries. The material will lead to a comprehensive analysis of change and conflict in Christian organizations. Recruiting, equipping, and developing teams for ministry will be central.

MAM 660 Discipleship, Evangelism, and the Mission of the Church

3 hours

This course is a study of the biblical principles and strategy needed to develop a disciple-making ministry that fulfills the mission of God in the church. An emphasis will be placed upon practical application within a ministry setting by the leadership. Included will be principles which give emphasis to establishing long-range evangelism and discipleship plans and molding various elements of ministry into a comprehensive strategy within a specific cultural context. The gospel, the church and the priesthood of all believers will be central areas of study. The outlook, concepts, and skills introduced in this course will equip the student to formulate a holistic philosophy of ministry.

MAM 680 Ministry Capstone

3 hours

The Capstone is designed to provide a synthetic educational experience that helps students to see how the composite parts of their academic and ministry experience relate to one another and connect to life beyond graduation. The course includes: (1) instruction to help the student to reflect and prepare to engage their calling and ministry post-graduation, (2) a two-week trip for on-site investigation of a variety of ministries, interspersed with classroom instruction by ministry leaders and (3) a final reflective component integrating the experience with the previous 1-2 years of the practicum with the students' reflections on their calling and ministry.