

## Master of Divinity Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

The Masters of Divinity oriented toward ministerial leadership is the most flexible of the three pathways by which one completes this 78-credit program. Persons interested in preparing for ordination or other credential ministry will find the requisite courses for those vocations. Those interested in preparing for non-credentialed ministry, non-profit leadership, or vocations in contexts outside of or beyond a church will find alternative courses that will prepare them for their own calling.

This M.Div. pathway engages students in sustained and probing study in five fields: Bible/Sacred Texts, History, Systematic Theology/Ethics, Practical Theology, and Interreligious Engagement. Its curriculum has several distinctive features.

1. **Options within required fields of study.** Within the fields of Bible, History, and Practical Theology, students may fulfill their requirements by differing courses identified as “Option A” or “Option B.” Equally rigorous, the courses differ in their respective emphases. “Option A” courses are designed primarily (but not exclusively) for students who aspire to work in ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries. “Option B” courses provide general theological background appropriate for preparation in realms beyond Christian churches.

2. **Opportunity to choose a “program concentration” that gives shape to a coherent, integrated plan of study.** Selecting a concentration in a particular area is a significant means of combining vocational preparation with intellectual engagement of a particular academic discipline. Concentrations—a minimum of 15 credits in elective courses—are available in twelve areas. *See column on the right.*

3. **Involvement in Union’s distinctive emphases on social disparities and interreligious engagement.** The curriculum necessitates engagement in disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality, and other marginalizing forces. M.Div. students are required to take at least 2 courses in interreligious engagement, and other additional courses may be taken as electives.

The M.Div. curriculum also provides opportunities for **personal, professional, and spiritual development.** These opportunities include Field Education and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). CPE is of particular importance for students considering chaplaincy. M.Div. students at Union are expected to integrate theological knowledge with analysis of contemporary issues, while developing practical skills for serving the needs of the communities, institutions, and society.

**Courses at Other Institutions:** M.Div. students are able to take up to 15 graduate-level credits at other accredited schools. These schools include Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Drew University School of Theology, Fordham University Department of Theology, General Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York Theological Seminary, and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary.

**Languages:** There is no language requirement for completion of the M.Div. However, based upon the student’s interests and intended vocation, we encourage study of biblical languages and a modern language.

**Program Concentrations:** Pastoral Ministry and Theology, Ministry and Social Work, Bible, Historical Studies and Church History, Theology, Theology and the Arts, Psychology and Religion, Christian Social Ethics, Interreligious Engagement, Preaching and Worship, Church and Society, and Interdisciplinary.

**Chaplaincy Certification:** Board certification as a chaplain requires an M.DIV., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organization or religious community.

The logo for Union University, featuring the word "UNION" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letters are thick and blocky. Below the word "UNION" is a solid red horizontal bar that spans the width of the text.