MASTER OF DIVINITY
ACADEMIC PROGRAM GUIDE

2018 - 2019

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Union Theological Seminary Mission Statement

Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York is a seminary and a graduate school of theology established in 1836 by founders “deeply impressed by the claims of the world upon the church.” Union prepares women and men for committed lives of service to the church, academy, and society.

A Union education develops practices of mind and body that foster intellectual and academic excellence, social justice, and compassionate wisdom. Grounded in the Christian tradition and responsive to the needs of God’s creation, Union’s graduates make a difference wherever they serve.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is a full-time, residential, three-year graduate professional degree that requires 78 credit hours, including 40-44 credits in core distribution requirements in the fields of Bible, Church History, Theology/Ethics, Practical Theology, and Interreligious Engagement.

Many graduates of the program enter the parish ministry, while others pursue vocations in diverse settings, such as university, hospital or prison chaplaincies; professional counseling; secondary school or university teaching; social work; business; government or journalism. The Seminary endeavors to meet the particular educational needs of the student’s vocational goals (see ATS Standards ES.1.2.2 and A.1.1.1).

The Seminary’s founders envisioned that an education at Union would enable students to complement “enlightened experience” with “solid learning and true piety.” Accordingly, the core of the MDiv curriculum engages students in a sustained and probing study of the Bible, of the history of Christianity (including its relationship with other religious traditions), and of systematic and practical theology. The curriculum also provides opportunities for personal, professional, and spiritual development. Students at Union are expected to integrate theological knowledge with analysis of contemporary issues, while developing practical skills for serving the needs of churches and society.

Union's curricula intentionally engage disparities in society based on gender, race, class, sexuality and other marginalizing forces. This is both a strength and challenge of studying in this environment. The goal is to provide the tools to respond with both analytic rigor and ministerial compassion. The Seminary’s urban location and university affiliation also help to shape study at Union.

As of Fall 2017, Union offered three possible pathways to its Master of Divinity degree:

1. Oriented toward Ministerial Leadership
2. A Concentration in Islam and Interreligious Engagement
3. A Concentration in Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement

As of Fall 2018, Union will offer the Anglican Studies concentration within its MDiv program.

The Master of Divinity Oriented toward Ministerial Leadership is the most flexible of the pathways, as it offers different options in required courses and numerous concentrations. Persons interested in preparing for ordination or other credentialed 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.

The Master of Divinity with a Concentration in Islam and Interreligious Engagement is for persons interested in specific preparation for diverse leadership roles working with and in Muslim communities.

The Master of Divinity with a Concentration in Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement is for persons interested in specific preparation for diverse leadership roles working with and in Buddhist communities, as well as bringing Buddhist practices and principles to communities that may not identify as Buddhist.

Program Goals and Learning Outcomes
Union’s faculty has identified program goals within four primary learning areas: Religious Heritage, Cultural Context, Personal and Spiritual Formation, and Capacity for Ministerial and Public Leadership (ATS A.2). The learning outcomes associated with each goal identify the knowledge and skills that students will achieve and be able to demonstrate when they successfully complete the program.

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

Goal 1: To develop a broad, critical understanding of Christian traditions in their scriptural foundations, historical developments, and theological perspectives.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrates an ability to identify, describe, analyze, and to interpret biblical texts in their literary, historical, and multi-religious contexts.
2. Demonstrates an ability to identify, describe, and to discuss significant periods, persons, and developments in the history of the Christian tradition(s).
3. Demonstrates an ability to recognize, explain, and to critically evaluate major theological themes, issues, and perspectives in Christian thought.

Goal 2: To cultivate inter-religious awareness and deepen understanding of the Christian heritage through substantive engagement with the thought and practices of traditions other than Christianity.

Learning Outcome:
2.1. Demonstrates substantive engagement with the thought and practices of traditions other than Christianity.

CULTURAL CONTEXT

Goal 3: To develop competencies in understanding social and cultural contexts that are significant for contemporary theology, the life of the church, and the promotion of justice in the world.

Learning Outcomes:
3.1. Demonstrates an ability to work with persons of diverse backgrounds, to learn from differences, and to articulate one’s own cultural and social perspectives with acknowledgment of their limitations.
3.2. Demonstrates an ability to articulate contextually informed and world-engaged theological perspectives.

3.3. Demonstrates an ability to analyze and address contemporary ethical issues from Christian and interreligious perspectives.

**Goal 4:** To enrich theological work by incorporating the arts and cultural diversity of New York City.
[Discontinued as of Fall 2018 by vote of the faculty]

**Learning Outcome:**
4.1. Demonstrates an ability to incorporate the arts, cultural diversity, international, and/or socio-economic dimensions of New York City into theological reflection. [Discontinued as of Fall 2018 by vote of the faculty]

**PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**Goal 5:** To clarify and deepen one’s own spiritual life and practices.

**Learning Outcome:**
5.1. Demonstrates familiarity with and informed utilization of traditional and contemporary forms of prayer, worship, and spiritual practices from Christian and/or other faith traditions for personal spiritual growth.

**Goal 6:** To develop the capacity to guide or enable the spiritual formation of others.

**Learning Outcome:**
6.1. Demonstrates familiarity with and informed utilization of traditional and contemporary forms of prayer, worship, and spiritual practices from Christian and/or other faith traditions for the spiritual formation of others.

**CAPACITY FOR MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP**

**Goal 7:** To cultivate a vision of professional identity and a style of ministry appropriate to the student’s abilities, aspirations and faith tradition, informed by diverse models of leadership.

**Learning Outcomes:**
7.1. Demonstrates development of a professional identity that is connected to the student’s abilities, aspirations, and faith tradition.

7.2. Demonstrates a theologically and professionally informed model and style of ministry within particular ministerial contexts.

**Goal 8:** To develop interpersonal insights and skills necessary for the professional practice of ministry.

**Learning Outcome:**
8.1. Demonstrates interpersonal insight and an ability to listen actively, communicate effectively, and to interact with others with honesty, empathy, compassion, and respect.

**Goal 9:** To develop the capacity to listen to, interpret, express, and/or critique the aspirations of a community or organization in public and communal contexts.

**Learning Outcome:**
9.1. Demonstrates the ability to represent and lead a community or organization in and through public and communal contexts such as worship, preaching, congregational pastoral care, public prayer, advocacy, teaching, written communication, and/or public speaking.

**Goal 10:** To develop the capacity to engage in careful and contextually sensitive interpretation of scripture and religious tradition(s) informed by interreligious engagement.

**Learning Outcome:**
10.1. Demonstrates an ability to make accessible, for particular congregations or communities, interpretations of sacred texts that are based on the application of sound exegetical methods and principles.

II. **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The MDiv requires a minimum of 78 credits; these credits cover required courses, a field education requirement, electives, and an opportunity to write a thesis, do a project, or take additional electives. Students are permitted and even encouraged to exceed the minimum requirements of the degree.

Students at Union come to the seminary with diverse religious backgrounds, academic interests, and vocational aspirations. Sometimes students’ interests and plans change as they learn, grow, and progress through the program. That is why Union has designed a flexible MDiv curriculum that provides students with options for satisfying the requisite minimum of 78 credits for the degree.

MDiv students choose from a range of courses in five fields of study: Bible, History, Systematic Theology/Ethics, Practical Theology, and Interreligious Engagement. Students are required to take a minimum number of credits in each field.

For the MDiv oriented toward ministerial leadership, within the Biblical, Historical, and Practical fields, students fulfill their requirements by completing mini-modules (“blocks”) of courses that have been identified as Option A or Option B. Introductory courses under Option A and B are equally rigorous but differ in their emphases and in their approach to the subject matter.

➢ **Option A:** A block of courses designed primarily (but not exclusively) for students who aspire to work in ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries.

➢ **Option B:** A block of courses designed primarily to accommodate students who plan to work in other contexts.

Students are not required to choose the same option in all three fields. However, students who begin a block of courses under Option A or Option B within a field are expected to satisfy all of the requirements of that option, subject to certain exceptions specified below. Additional flexibility is built into the field requirements, even within the option blocks, in order to maximize a student’s opportunity to craft a customized program that has a solid common core, and that will help the student to achieve both curricular and individual goals. Please note there is less flexibility within the concentrations in Islam and Interreligious Engagement and Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement. See degree program planners in Appendix A for more details.
Credit Distribution Requirements
Minimum credit requirements within the MDiv oriented toward ministerial leadership curriculum are distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field:</th>
<th>Credit Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bible</td>
<td>Option A: 11-13 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Theology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interreligious Engagement</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Education</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration Electives</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis, Project or Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td>12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CREDITS</strong></td>
<td><strong>78</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific Course Requirements for the MDiv Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership
The following paragraphs provide an overview of the specific course requirements of the MDiv oriented toward ministerial leadership. For the MDiv with a concentration in Islam and Interreligious Engagement, Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement, and the Anglican Studies concentration, see appendices A3-5, which outline specific requirements for these concentrations.

Students should carefully read and utilize the MDiv degree planners in Appendix A, which graphically list specifically required courses and credit requirements within the fields. The degree planners provide detailed notes that describe important limitations, exceptions, and additional options.

Bible Courses (OT/NT/BX):
Option A
[11-13 credits] Introduction to Old Testament (OT 101) and Introduction to New Testament (NT 101), each offered for 4 credits, must be taken in the first year of the program. Students who take one of these courses must take the other. In both courses, concurrent registration in OT 101A and NT 101A (Bible content) is required.
Students who are pursuing ordination, chaplaincy, or another ecclesial ministry should complete the Option A block by taking 3-credit Exegetical Practicum (BX 201) in the Fall of the second year. BX 201 is a prerequisite for CW 104 (Fundamentals of Preaching)

Students who have completed the introductory OT and NT courses (100 level) but who will not be pursuing ordination, chaplaincy, or another ecclesial ministry may substitute one of the
following courses for BX 201 in order to complete the requirements of Option A: another OT, NT or a BX course (except BX 101).

**Option B**

[10-13 credits] *Introduction to the Bible* (BX 101), offered for 4 credits, must be taken in the Fall of the first year of the program. Under this option, students must complete their Bible requirements by taking another 3-credit OT course and another 3-credit NT course.

*Exception:* Students who do not identify as Christian may petition the Academic Dean to substitute one course on a sacred text other than the Christian Bible (e.g. STX 242, *The Qur’an*) for one of the OT or NT courses in fulfillment of Option B.

Students who, after having taken BX 101 under Option B, decide to pursue ordination, chaplaincy, or an ecclesial ministry do not have to begin again under Option A in order to be adequately prepared for their ministries. They should also take BX 201 (and CW 104). These students should then complete their Option B requirements by taking another 3-credit OT course and another 3-credit NT course [for a total of 13 Bible credits].

**Biblical Languages:** While courses in the biblical languages are not required for the degree, all students are urged to elect study of at least one of the biblical languages.

**History Courses (CH):**

**Option A**

[6 credits] Students satisfy this option by taking three courses that together offer a comprehensive study of sequential periods in church history: *Introduction to Christian History: The First Millennium* (CH 107), *The History of Christianity: Western European Church History c.1000-c.2000* (CH 108), and *The History of Christianity Since Reformation* (CH 109), each offered for 2 credits. These courses do not have to be taken in any particular order.

Students who have taken two courses in the CH 107/108/109 triad may complete their history requirements under either Option A or Option B.

**Option B**

[6-7 credits] Students are required to take the 3-credit *Christianity in Historical Perspective* course (CH 101), which introduces students to a historical approach to understanding the Christian experience. Students must also take either another 3-credit CH course or two of the 2-credit courses (CH 107, 108, or 109). These courses need not be taken in any particular order.

**Practical Theology Courses:**

Included in the practical theology field are courses in practical theology (PT), religion and education (RE), church and society (CS), psychology and religion (PS), preaching, arts and worship (CW), communication arts (CA), and field education.
Option A
[6 credits] Introduction to Worship (CW 103) or Fundamentals of Preaching (CW 104), (CW 104 must be taken after Biblical Exegesis (BX 201). Students seeking ordination or chaplaincy are strongly encouraged to take both CW 103 and CW 104. For others students, the remaining 3 credits may be taken in a RE, CS, PS, CA, PT, advanced FE, or in another CW course.

Option A students may take the 3-credit introductory Communication Arts course (CA 102) as their second practical theology course or as a general elective.

Option B
[6 credits] Students whose vocational plans do not require facility in preaching or worship may opt-out of CW 103/CW 104 and substitute Communication Arts (CA 102) instead. The remaining 3 credits may be taken in a RE, CS, PS, CA, PT, advanced FE, or in another CW course.

Theology Courses:
A minimum of 6 credits must be earned in this field. Students must take one of the 100-level systematic theology courses (ST 103 or 104) for 3 credits. To complete the requirements in this field, students may take an additional 3-credit course in systematic theology (ST), Christian ethics (CE), or philosophy of religion (PR). Students whose college work in philosophy is not strong are advised to select Philosophy of Religion (PR 103), when it is offered.

Field Education:
To meet the degree requirement, 6 credits in field education must be satisfied in one of the following ways:

Concurrent Part-Time Internship: FE 103/104
The field education seminar sequence (FE 103-104) with part-time field placement is ordinarily chosen to satisfy the 6-credit field education requirement. FE 103 and 104 are taken concurrently with a supervised field placement of 12-15 hours per week. The seminar provides opportunities for disciplined reflection on the events and experiences of the field site; and facilitates the development of ministerial identity, authority, and competency for ministry/service. The seminar is designed to broaden and to deepen students’ analytic perspectives in their field placement context and their roles as professionals in that context. Theological reflection is at the heart of this learning. FE 103 is only offered during the Fall semester and always precedes FE 104, which is offered in the Spring semester. The FE 103/104 sequence is a yearlong course. The field placement site (normally in a church, chaplaincy, or service agency) must be approved by the Senior Director of Integrative and Field-Based Education.

Full-Time Internship: FE 303/304
The other option for satisfying the field education requirement is the full-time internship, FE 300-301. This internship, usually taken after two full years of study, is a full-time, out-of-residence, supervised field placement for a minimum of eight months. Students do not enroll for
any other courses while working at their full-time field site. In addition to the internship experience, students are required to do a special project in which they demonstrate an ability to integrate their academic and field-based learning. Students with an interest in international placements often enroll in FE 303/304 and pay an internship fee in lieu of tuition. Full-time internship placements must be approved by the Senior Director of Integrative and Field-Based Education.

First-year students must attend one field education information session held in the early Fall and must schedule a meeting with a Field Education Teaching Fellow to discuss field site placements no later than October 15th. Please consult the Field Education Handbook for detailed information about the field education requirements, electives, and processes.

**Interreligious Engagement (IE):**
A minimum of 6 credits must be earned in this field. Religions in the City (IE 102) must be taken as early as possible, especially if a student has an IE concentration. An additional IE course completes the IE requirement.

**Electives:**

**Concentration Electives:** MDiv students should take a minimum of 15 credits in their area of concentration. Normally, concentration courses should not be taken in a given field until progress has been made in meeting that field’s required course requirements. Choosing at least 15 credits of electives with a concentration in mind allows the student to focus studies in a particular field or in one of the faculty-approved program foci. See Appendix B for the course requirements in these areas of concentration.

**General Electives:** The minimum number of required general electives varies from 12-17 credits, depending on the student’s curriculum choices and whether or not the student has taken the Bible content courses. Through electives, students may exceed the minimum requirements for the degree in order to pursue particular interests and prepare for their vocations.

**SU (Supplemental Co-curricular) Courses:** Students will also profit by taking SU courses that provide opportunities for spiritual and personal enrichment (Topics in Spirituality (SU 125) and/or the acquisition of practical professional and ministerial skills (Topics in Ministry (SU 190). Students may take as many SU courses as they wish but only three SU course credits may be counted toward their general elective degree requirements. Consult the course catalog for other SU courses on various topics, most of which may be taken for 1 credit. Only three SU credits can count toward the MDiv degree.

**Guided Readings:**
Students may propose a guided reading for 1, 2, or 3 credits with the approval and under the direction of a member of the faculty. Students must submit a written guided reading proposal, signed by the faculty member, for the approval of the Academic Dean. The guided reading request form is available here.

**Courses Taken Concurrently in Other Schools:**
With the written approval of the faculty advisor and of the Academic Dean, students enrolled in the MDiv program may take up to 15 graduate-level elective credits in courses offered at other accredited
schools. Courses that are listed in the Union catalog may not be taken at other schools. Registration for outside courses is generally limited to one course per semester.

Cost: With the exception of Columbia University, graduate courses taken with Union approval at partner schools may be taken at no additional cost to Union students. Partner schools are those with which Union has a cross-registration or other credit recognition agreement. Partner schools include only the following:

- **New York Theological School Consortium** signatories: Drew University Seminary, Fordham University GSAS, General Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York Theological Seminary, and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary.

- **Some Columbia University Schools**: Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), School of the Arts, and the School of International and Public Affairs. Courses taken at these schools must be at the 3000-level or higher. Columbia charges course fees (on average $350-550 per course). See Union’s policy on Columbia course fees. Please note that Columbia University Teachers College is not a partner school.

Please read *Taking Courses at Other Institutions* (Appendix C) for important details, instructions and procedures.

The cost of taking courses at non-partner schools is the student’s sole responsibility, although students may apply to the Academic Dean for a subsidy. The decision as to whether or not to grant a subsidy, in whole or in part, is within the discretion of the Academic Dean.

Permission and Earned Credit: Students who wish to take courses in outside partner or non-partner schools must complete an application form that is signed by the faculty advisor and submitted to the Academic Dean for approval. Approvals must be obtained in advance of registration for the course if a student desires credit to be applied toward fulfillment of Union credit requirements. A minimum grade of B (or equivalent) must be earned for credit to be counted toward fulfillment of the Union degree.

Registration: Students must register at Union for every course they take, whether at Union or at an outside school. Approved forms must be submitted by the student to the Registrar and are available on this [webpage](#). In some cases, students will have to register at the outside school as well.

**Thesis or Senior Project (or Additional Elective Courses):**

Students who wish to write a thesis or to do a senior project must demonstrate their qualifications for doing so and obtain the approval of their faculty advisor. Thesis Proposal Forms, approved by the advisor, are submitted to the Registrar in the Fall semester of the final year, regardless of if writing a thesis, completing a senior project, or taking additional electives. More typically, MDiv students will complete their requirements by taking 6 additional elective credits instead of writing a thesis or doing a senior project.

*Thesis Seminar I* (UT 150) and *Thesis Seminar II* (UT 151) are offered during the academic year. While students are not required to take this seminar, it is highly recommended that they do so.

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Denominational Requirements:
Because Union Theological Seminary does not ordain, license, or certify candidates for ordination, those who seek ordination must consult closely with the ecclesiastical authorities of the churches to which they belong. Certain denominations require that candidates for ordination study biblical languages or take courses in the doctrine, polity, and worship of that denomination. Additionally, certain specialized ministries (such as the pastorate, religious education, campus ministry, college teaching, prison chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, social service) carry distinctive vocational training requirements. The requirements of each student’s denomination or chosen vocation will affect a student’s choice of courses, so it is important for the student to discuss the particularities of her or his vocational call with the faculty advisor. Students should also consult the Union website for more detailed information concerning particular ministry/career paths (https://myunion.utsnyc.edu/myunion/career-resources) and denominational requirements (https://myunion.utsnyc.edu/myunion/career-resources).

III. COURSE LOAD AND PROGRAM PLANNING (Three-year norm)

The normal course load, apart from courses taken in the January and Summer intersessions, is 24 credits for the full-time candidate in the first year, and 26 or 28 credits in second and third years. Students are not permitted to take more than 15 credits in any one semester or more than 30 credits in an academic year (Fall/Spring) without permission from the Academic Dean.

First Year
First year students normally complete at least 24 credits in the first year by taking four courses each semester. Students are expected to complete the biblical field’s sequence of foundational courses and to begin taking the foundational church history and/or theology courses as early as possible, preferably in the first year. It is also very important to take an interreligious engagement course within the first three semesters in order to enrich interpretation of the Christian heritage in light of other religious traditions, and vice versa. CW 103 is recommended during Spring semester of the first year. The early completion of foundational work in these fields equips the student with basic vocabulary, data, and concepts necessary for closer or more advanced and specialized study in the five fields and/or in other subjects in the curriculum. Early completion of the core field requirements also provides the foundation for courses students may wish to take at other schools.

A psychology and religion (PS) course is also highly recommended within the first three semesters in order to prepare students for reflection on the complex interactions they will experience at their field education sites in the second year. PS 110 is a prerequisite to receiving academic credit for clinical pastoral education (CPE). PS 101 is highly recommended prior to CPE. Consult the Field Education Handbook for more details.

The study of biblical Hebrew or biblical Greek early in the program enables the student to use these linguistic skills in subsequent courses. These courses are not required for the degree, but may be required by certain denominations for persons seeking ordination.
Second Year
During the second year, MDiv students will take required courses that focus on practical theology, ministerial skills development, and integrative learning. For instance, students who choose Option A in the biblical and practical fields will take the course in biblical exegesis (BX 201) prior to Fundamentals of Preaching (CW 104). Students who choose Option B in the practical field will take the foundational course in communication arts (CA 102). The Field Education course (FE 103-104) provides an opportunity for application of ministerial skills, integrative learning, and vocational discernment through theological reflection on ministerial experience.

By the end of the second year or its equivalent, students designate an approved program concentration for purposes of engaging in focused study and/or preparation for a particular type of ministry.

Third Year
In the second half of the program, especially in the third year (or equivalent), students who typically have met most of the distribution requirements have considerable freedom to choose electives in accordance with their particular interests, concentration, or vocational plans. In the first semester of the senior year, MDiv candidates whose course work and writing skills are of sufficient quality may apply to write a thesis in satisfaction of 6 elective course credits that are otherwise required.

Sometimes a student will not be able to complete the MDiv degree in three years. Some students may be required by their denominations to take a year of internship between the second and third year of MDiv studies; others, because of family or financial considerations or special educational needs, decide to spread their degree studies over four, or occasionally, five years. Although a student’s situation may change during the course of studies, decisions about the tentative selection of courses and the duration of the program should be made in consultation with the faculty advisor as part of a coherent study plan that follows the normal course of study for the MDiv degree as closely as possible.

In order to provide students with adequate academic support and guidance as they move toward completion of the program, and in order to ensure that students achieve their curricular and individual learning goals, Union requires all students to meet with their advisors for pre-registration advisement and/or academic assessment conferences at specified times. Sometimes advisement and assessment take place simultaneously.

*Please be aware that participation in required advisement and assessment activities is a degree requirement that students are expected to fulfill in order to register for courses, receive grades, and/or receive their diplomas.*

IV. ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT

Advisement may take place at any time for a variety of purposes within a variety of contexts; students are strongly encouraged to seek academic advisement as needed. However, the Seminary has established specific requirements for each degree program with regard to advisement consultations that take place prior to registration periods.
Registration for Fall Courses:
All incoming students are required to meet, in person, with their assigned faculty advisor for curricular advisement prior to Fall registration for the first year of study. First semester curricular advisement normally takes place during the Fall orientation period in August/September.

Online course registration for Summer and the Fall normally takes place in April. Registration consultations in April with faculty advisors must be in person. Students do not have to consult with their advisors again in September if they have had a consultation in the previous April.

Registration for Spring Courses:
Online course registration for Spring courses normally takes place in November. First-year students are required to consult with their advisor prior to registration for the Spring semester. While it is highly recommended that this consultation take place in person, the student and advisor may agree to consult by phone, email, or videoconference. However, registration for the Spring in the first year of study will remain blocked by a “hold” until the faculty advisor certifies to the Registrar (via email) that there has been a meaningful registration consultation.

Second and third-year MDiv students are strongly encouraged but are not required to consult with their advisors prior to November early-registration for Spring classes. However, second-year students are required to check in with their advisors for general advisement purposes at least once before the last day of classes in the Fall semester. Third-Year MDiv students are encouraged, but are not required, to check in with their advisors at least once before the last day of classes in the Fall semester of their final year.

See the chart at end of Section V for a summary of advisement requirements.

V. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING AND CURRICULAR EFFECTIVENESS

Union engages in the regular, systematic, and comprehensive assessment of student learning and program effectiveness for all degree programs. Each student is provided with an ePortfolio into which specified documents are deposited and periodically reviewed by the student, advisor, and designated administrators in the Academic Office for purposes of determining the extent to which students are progressing toward achievement of curricular and individual goals.

The ePortfolios are electronic folders set up for each student by the Academic Office. Students can access and manage their ePortfolios through the Google Drive that is associated with their @utsnyc.edu email account. (not accessible through personal Gmail accounts). Instructions for how to access your ePortfolio are in Appendix D of this program guide.

At a minimum, the current MDiv assessment plan requires that the following documents be deposited into the ePortfolios at specified times (and by specified persons) over the course of the student’s progression through the program.
### Preliminary Documents
deposited by one week before Orientation Advisement meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>DOCUMENT</th>
<th>DEPOSITED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Admissions Essay</td>
<td>Academic Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Entrance Questionnaire (EQ)</td>
<td>Academic Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Current resume</td>
<td>Student or Academic Office, periodically updated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Field Education Documents
deposited by December 15 of 2nd year

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>DOCUMENT</th>
<th>DEPOSITED BY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Academic Vocational Essay (AVE) submitted as a final paper for FE 103 – with professor comments</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Field Placement Learning Agreement</td>
<td>Field Education Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Field Education Self-Evaluation</td>
<td>Field Education Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Field Education Supervisor Evaluation</td>
<td>Field Education Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**</td>
<td>Psychology &amp; Religion concentrators – CPE evaluation</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Academic Work
deposited by January 15 of 2nd year

**Naming convention: Last Name First Name Course # Instructor Name Genre/title**

(Example: Bidlack Beth NT101 Niang Exegetical Paper)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>DOCUMENT</th>
<th>DEPOSITED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>BX 201 paper OR exegetical paper from another course (OT, NT, BX) with instructor’s comments. This artifact should demonstrate achievement of one or more religious heritage goals/learning outcomes (see Section I)</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Assignment from CW 103, another CW course, a CA course or a sermon delivered at the student’s field ed site with instructor’s comments. This artifact should demonstrate achievement of one or more personal/spiritual formation and/or capacity for ministerial and public leadership goals/learning outcomes (see Section I)</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>An assignment from IE 102 or another IE course with instructor’s comments. This artifact should demonstrate achievement of one or more goals or learning outcomes (e.g., 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1). (see Section I)</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>First of two assignments from a course in one of the following fields: theology/ethics, history, practical theology with instructor’s comments. This artifact should demonstrate achievement of one or more goals/learning outcomes (e.g., 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). (see Section I)</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Second of two final assignments from a course in another of the following fields: theology/ethics, history, practical theology instructor’s comments. This artifact should demonstrate achievement of one or more goals/learning outcomes (e.g., 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). (see Section I)

### Registrar’s Documents
**deposit by January 15th of 2nd year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>DOCUMENT</th>
<th>DEPOSITED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Degree audit</td>
<td>Academic Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Unofficial transcript with narrative course evaluations</td>
<td>Academic Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Final Academic Work
**deposit by May 15 of 3rd year**

*Naming convention: Last Name First Name Course # Instructor Name Genre/title*

*(Example: Bidlack Beth NT101 Niang Exegetical Paper)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>DOCUMENT</th>
<th>DEPOSITED BY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Thesis or senior project (and evaluation)</td>
<td>Student and (Academic Office)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional assignments from courses in Bible, history, theology, ethics, and practical theology. These artifacts should demonstrated achievement of one or more goals/learning outcomes that were not demonstrated previously. See Section I.

### Assessment Surveys & Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>DOCUMENT</th>
<th>DEPOSITED BY</th>
<th>DEPOSITED WHEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mid-Program Self-Assessment Survey (MPR SAS)</td>
<td>Completed by student, deposited by Academic Office</td>
<td>by January 15 of 2nd year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mid-Program Review Final Report (MPR FR)</td>
<td>Advisor and Academic Office</td>
<td>by March 30 of 2nd year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Final Self-Assessment Survey (FSAS)</td>
<td>Completed by student, deposited by Academic Office</td>
<td>by May 1 of graduating year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Final Assessment Report (FAR)</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td>by June 1 of graduating year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is important that students abide by the due dates for depositing ePortfolio items so that faculty advisors have sufficient time to review ePortfolio contents before assessment conferences are held and/or faculty assessment reports are due. Failure to submit required materials may result in a hold on your account, which will prevent course registration, transcript requests, and receiving your diploma.

**Mid-Program Review:**
At the midpoint of the degree program, when students have completed approximately half of their degree credits and have taken one semester of field education, a comprehensive mid-program review (MPR) conference is conducted. This conference normally occurs in February or March of the second year.

The purpose of the MPR conference is three-fold:
1. It is an opportunity for students to reflect on, track, and evaluate their learning progress and achievements.
2. It allows Union to systematically gather, analyze, and interpret information on how well students are progressing toward achievement of their curricular and individual learning and vocational goals.
3. It provides data that can inform curricular revision and course design while students are still in the MDiv program.

The mid-program review process requires students to participate in a 30- to 45-minute conference with their advisor and a senior representative of the academic office. Prior to the MPR conference, the assessors review the contents of the students’ ePortfolios and fill out a preliminary MPR report. Students are also required to fill out a self-assessment survey prior to the MPR conference. The academic office will deposit the survey into students’ ePortfolios. Following the conference, the faculty advisor and academic office representative jointly prepare a final MPR report that includes a consensus assessment of student progress toward each of the learning outcomes. Consult with the Associate Academic Dean for more information or questions about the MPR and assessment process.

**Final Assessment:**
In the final semester, students deposit into their ePortfolios their final essays, the thesis or senior project paper, and complete an online final self-assessment survey. Union occasionally participates in the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Graduating Student Questionnaire (GSQ). Graduating students will be notified by email if the school is participating. The assessment process is concluded when the student’s advisor performs final review of the student’s ePortfolio submits final assessment report (FAR), a copy of which is deposited into the ePortfolio.
### Schedule of Student Faculty Advisement & Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conferences and Consultations</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>February-March</th>
<th>April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Advisement - Fall</td>
<td>Registration Advisement - Spring</td>
<td>General Advisement (check-in)</td>
<td>Mid-Program Review</td>
<td>Registration Advisement - Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st year</strong></td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>√ (hold)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2nd year</strong></td>
<td>(√)</td>
<td></td>
<td>√ at least once by end of Fall</td>
<td>✔️ (MPR) (MDiv only)</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3rd year</strong></td>
<td>(√)</td>
<td></td>
<td>strongly encouraged by end of Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ✔️ = must be in person
- √ = some meaningful consultation
- (√) = only if no pre-registration has taken place
- (hold) = in place until advisor notifies Registrar that advisement has occurred

Assessment is not a credit-bearing process. The seminary is required by its accreditation agencies to assess all of its degree programs. Therefore participation in and completion of the assessment process is a requirement for advancement through the program and conferral of the degree.

### VI. MASTER OF DIVINITY AND MSSW/MSW

Some students plan careers for which they require professional training in both theological studies and social work. It has long been true that a number of Union graduates have chosen careers of ministry in the helping professions outside of a particular denomination. Moreover, many students seeking vocations within traditional church ministries see the distinct advantages that accompany social work training and credentials in addition to a theological education. In order to provide an opportunity to combine these studies in New York City, Union Seminary and the Columbia University School of Social Work have a collaborative “dual degree” arrangement under which students complete the MDiv and the Master of Science in Social Work in one four-year program. Qualified students may earn the two degrees in less time and at less expense than would ordinarily be possible if the two programs were pursued separately. As of Fall 2018, Union and Silberman School of Social Work (Hunter College) will offer a dual MDiv/MSW degree. Students interested in these programs should consult with the Associate Academic Dean as soon as possible.

To enroll in this dual degree program, application to and acceptance for admission to both the Seminary and the Columbia School of Social Work or Silberman School of Social Work is required. Students interested in pursuing this program should apply to both schools at the same time and request deferred admission to the Columbia School of Social Work. Application to Columbia should be made, at the very latest, in the Fall of the first year of MDiv studies prior to Columbia’s December 1st deadline. Because
classes start at Silberman in August during the first semester, students should apply to both schools at the same time. The academic program is not updated to indicate dual degree until the student submits the acceptance letter from Columbia to the Registrar.

**Program Goals and Learning Outcomes**
The program goals, course requirements, and learning outcomes of the dual degree are identical to those in the Union MDiv degree program with respect to *religious heritage; cultural context; personal and spiritual formation; and capacity for ministerial and public leadership*. A fourth learning area distinctive to this dual degree program is *interdisciplinary integration*, the goals and outcomes of which are as follows:

**INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION**

**Goal 11:** To cultivate the ability to integrate the following into ministerial and/or other professional practice: (1) biblical, theological, ethical, and spiritual knowledge and understanding; (2) practical ministerial skills; (3) the theories, skills and practices of social work (clinical, organizational, and administrative).

**Learning Outcome:**
11.1 Demonstrates the ability to integrate theory, knowledge, and skills from the disciplines of theology and social work into ministerial and/or professional practice.

**Assessment**
The Union assessment process for the MDSW is the same as that for the MDiv degree, with the following modifications:

- Instead of the documents associated with Union field education (the learning agreement, supervisor’s evaluation, academic vocational essay, and student’s field education self-evaluation required in FE 103), the student will upload to their ePortfolio comparable documents associated with the Columbia School of Social Work field education course.
- Usually, the mid-program review conference will be conducted in the third semester.

Assessment of student learning outcomes and program effectiveness of the concurrently but separately awarded Columbia University School of Social Work degree or Silberman School of Social Work degree is conducted solely by those schools and meets all accreditation standards applicable to that program. Union assessment pertains only to the MDiv curriculum, which, in the case of this dual degree program, includes the interdisciplinary integration learning goal.

For billing purposes, dual degree students are subject to four semesters of full-time tuition (i.e., four full tuition units) at the Seminary instead of the usual six required for the regular MDiv program.

Dual degree students should submit unofficial social work transcripts to Union every semester so that progress can be recorded on their Union transcript. An official transcript is required prior to graduation.
APPENDICES
Red courses in blocks marked Option A should be chosen by students who aspire to ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries. Those considering ordination must be mindful of their denominational ordination requirements.

Courses in blocks marked Option B are designed to accommodate students who plan to work in other contexts. Students in this category may choose either Option A (red or blue) or Option B in one or more fields.

As a rule, students who begin a block of Option A or Option B courses within a field must satisfy all requirements of that block in order to fulfill degree requirements in that field.

See notes (over) for exceptions, exemptions, additional options, and guidance.
IMPORTANT NOTES * PLEASE READ

BIBLICAL FIELD

1. All students who take OT101 must also take NT101 and vice versa.

2. Option A courses in Red: Students who are considering ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries should take BX 201, CW 104, and CW 103 to complete Option A requirements.

3. Option A courses in Blue: These courses are intended for second-year M.Div. students who have chosen Option A but for whom BX 201/CW 104 is not consistent with or necessary for their anticipated ministerial contexts. In other words, students who have taken the OT/NT101 (and 101a, when required) pairing in Option A but who are not (or are no longer) considering ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries, may substitute a blue course for BX201 in order to complete their Biblical field requirements.

4. Option A students may not take BX 101 (Introduction to the Bible) as an elective.

5. Option B students who do not identify as Christian may substitute one course on a sacred text other than the Christian Bible (e.g. the Qur’an) for one of the OT or NT courses listed in the Option B block. Such non-biblical Sacred Text courses (STX) may be cross-listed as IE/STX courses.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FIELD

6. BX 201 should be taken by anyone planning to do ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries and should be taken before CW 104 (Fundamentals of Preaching). Students who choose Bible Option B may take BX 201 in fulfillment of one of their Biblical course requirements or electives.

7. Option A students who take CW104 (after completing BX 201) may take CA 102 (Communication Arts) either in fulfillment of their Practical Theology Field requirements or as a free elective.

INTERRELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT FIELD

8. Students who take a Sacred Text (STX) course to fulfill the Bible requirements must take another IE course to complete the second IE requirement.
# Appendix A2

## UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## MASTER OF DIVINITY COURSE PLANNING

## WORKSHEET

### FIRST YEAR * FALL TERM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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First Year Fall Term

### FIRST YEAR * SPRING TERM

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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First Year Spring Term

### SECOND YEAR * FALL TERM

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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Second Year Fall Term

### SECOND YEAR * SPRING TERM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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Second Year Spring Term

### THIRD YEAR * FALL TERM

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
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Third Year Fall Term

### THIRD YEAR * SPRING TERM

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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Third Year Spring Term
**M.Div. Degree Planner**

78 cr. (minimum) required

**Islam and Interreligious Engagement Option (M.Div. IIE)**

**Notes**

1: Dependent on student goals, an appropriate CW course can be selected for this requirement.

2: This course will typically be taken at Columbia or Fordham.

3. Students should take this course as early in the program as possible.

4. Remaining 9 cr. selected in consultation with advisor.

---

**BIBLE & SACRED TEXTS (10 cr.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION IIE (10 cr.)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BX 101 (4 cr.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STX 242 (Qur’an: Engaging a Sacred Text, 3 cr.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another Bible/STX course (3 cr.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another Islam-focused STX course or STX course in tradition other than Islam or Christianity or OT/INT/STX Course with IE focus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**THEOLOGY (6 cr.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION IIE (6 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH 101 (3 cr.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND EITHER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course focused on Islamic History (3 cr., Selected in consultation with Advisor)</td>
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**INTER-RELIGIOUS (6 cr.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IE 102 (3 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another IE course in tradition other than Islam or Christianity</td>
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**INTER-RELIGIOUS (6 cr.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(3 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA 102 (3 cr.) or CW course (3 cr., Selected in consultation with Advisor)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another Practical Theology Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>________ (3 cr.) [CA, CW, PT, PS, CS, RE]</td>
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**THEOLOGY (6 cr.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ST 103 or ST 104 (3 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 230 (Islamic Religious Thought, &amp; Practice, 3 cr.)</td>
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**GENERAL ELECTIVES (17 cr.)**

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<tr>
<th>________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis or Additional Courses (at least 3 cr. in Islam/Comp.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>________ (3 cr.)</td>
<td>________ (3 cr.)</td>
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**FIELD ED (6 cr.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FE 103 (3 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FE 104 (3 cr.)</td>
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**CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam Focused/Comparative Courses 15 cr.</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IE 320 (Islam &amp; Religious Diversity, 3 cr.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 316 (Women, Islam, and Interpretation, 3 cr.)</td>
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<td>________(3 cr.)</td>
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**HISTORY (6 cr.)**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH 101 (3 cr.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AND EITHER</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Course focused on Islamic History (3 cr., Selected in consultation with Advisor)</td>
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**PRACTICAL THEOLOGY (6 cr.)**

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**FIELD ED (6 cr.)**

<table>
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<td>FE 104 (3 cr.)</td>
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**GENERAL ELECTIVES (17 cr.)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis or Additional Courses (at least 3 cr. in Islam/Comp.)</td>
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**GENERAL ELECTIVES (17 cr.)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis or Additional Courses (at least 3 cr. in Islam/Comp.)</td>
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</table>
M.Div., Islam & Interreligious Engagement Option (M.Div. IIE)

Description
The Islam and Interreligious Engagement option within the Master of Divinity (M.Div. IIE) is a 78 credit, three-year professional graduate degree. This degree prepares individuals for diverse leadership roles working with and in Muslim communities. These roles include religious and spiritual leadership; chaplaincy at universities, hospitals, or prisons; professional counseling; teaching; and careers in interreligious/interfaith cooperation, policy-making, social justice advocacy, journalism, non-profits, and government.

The M.Div. IIE curriculum engages students in sustained and probing study of Sacred Texts, History, Systematic Theology and Islamic Religious Sciences, Practical Theology, and field education. The curriculum has three distinctive features:

1. **Focus on Islamic tradition and Muslim practice:** The M.Div. IIE provides a robust foundation in Islamic tradition. M.Div. IIE students take at least 27 credits (9 courses) that focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Islamic tradition and Muslim practice. Required courses include: The Qur’an: Engaging a Sacred Text; Islamic Religious Thought and Practice; Islamic History; Islam & Religious Diversity; and Women, Islam & Interpretation.

2. **Focus on interreligious engagement:** The M.Div. IIE provides sustained exposure to other religious traditions and interreligious engagement. Students are required to take at least 16 credits (5 courses) on Christianity, another religious tradition, and the theory, methods, and approaches of interreligious engagement. Required courses include: Introduction to the Bible, Systematic Theology, and Religions in the City.

3. **Focus on social disparities:** In keeping with Union’s broader curricula, the M.Div. IIE intentionally engages social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality, and other marginalizing forces. Integrated into many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, and spiritual compassion.

The M.Div. IIE 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:** In addition to courses offered at Union, M.Div. IIE 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 (GSAS), Drew University School of Theology, Fordham University Department of Theology and GSAS, General Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, New York Theological Seminary, and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary.

**IIIT Summer Program:** M.Div. IIE students are strongly encouraged to participate in the International Institute of Islamic Thought’s (IIIT) Summer Student Program. This program introduces foundational fields in Islamic religious sciences and a variety of other thematic topics. It also exposes students to Islamic Studies faculty from across the United States. Students may earn up to 4 cr. for successful participation in this program.

**Languages:** There is no language requirement for completion of the M.Div. IIE degree. However, based upon the student’s interests and intended vocation, study of certain languages—inclusive of, but not limited to, Arabic—is strongly advised. Students can take Arabic through Hunter College and other summer programs.

**Note about Chaplaincy Certification:** Board certification as a chaplain generally requires an M.DIV., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organization (such as ISNA) or religious community. Students should check with their endorsing body for additional requirements.
# M.DIV. DEGREE PLANNER

## 78 cr. (minimum) required

### Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement Option (M.Div. BIE)

**Notes**

1. Dependent on student goals, an appropriate CW course can be selected for this requirement.

2. This course will typically be taken at Columbia.

3. Students should take this course as early in the program as possible.

4. Remaining 9 cr. selected in consultation with advisor.

---

## BIBLE & SACRED TEXTS (10 cr.)

**OPTION BIE (10 cr.)**

- BX 101 (4 cr.)
- AND
- STX Course in Buddhism (3 cr.)
- AND
- Another Bible/STX course (3 cr.)
- Another Buddhism-focused STX Course or STX Course focused on another tradition or OT/NT/STX Course with IE focus

## HISTORY (6 cr.)

**OPTION BIE (6 cr.)**

- CH 101 (3 cr.)
- AND
- Course focused on Buddhist History (3 cr., Selected in consultation with Advisor) ²

## THEOLOGY (6 cr.)

- ST 103 or ST 104 (3 cr.)
- AND
- IE 234 Buddhist Religious Thought & Practice (3 cr.) ³

## INTERRELIGIOUS (6 cr.)

- IE 102 (3 cr.)
- AND
- Another IE course in tradition other than Buddhism or Christianity _____ (3 cr.)

## CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS (Buddhism Focused/Comparative Courses 15 cr.) ⁴

- IE 221 Intro to Buddhist Meditation (3 cr.)
- IE 240 Socially Engaged Buddhism (3 cr.)
- ___________ (3 cr.)
- ___________ (3 cr.)
- ___________ (3 cr.)

## GENERAL ELECTIVES (17 cr.)

- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )
- ___________ ( )

## PRACTICAL THEOLOGY (6 cr.)

**OPTION BIE (6 cr.)**

- CA 102 (3 cr.) or CW course (3 cr., Selected in consultation with Advisor) ¹
- AND
- Another Practical Theology Course

- ___________ (3 cr.) [CA, CW, PT, PS, CS, RE]

## FIELD ED (6 cr.)

- Thesis or Additional Courses (min. 3 cr. in Buddhism/Comp.)
- ___________ (3 cr.)
- ___________ (3 cr.)

---

¹: Dependent on student goals, an appropriate CW course can be selected for this requirement.

²: This course will typically be taken at Columbia.

³: Students should take this course as early in the program as possible.

⁴: Remaining 9 cr. selected in consultation with advisor.
M.Div., Buddhism & Interreligious Engagement Option (M.Div. BIE)

Description
The Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement option within the Master of Divinity (M.Div. BIE) is a 78 credit, three-year professional graduate degree. This degree prepares individuals for diverse leadership roles working with and in Buddhist communities as well as bringing Buddhist practices and principles to communities that may not identify as Buddhist. These roles include religious and spiritual leadership; chaplaincy at universities, hospitals, or prisons; professional counseling; teaching; and careers in interreligious/interfaith cooperation, policy-making, social justice advocacy, journalism, non-profits, and government.

The M.Div. BIE curriculum engages students in sustained and probing study of Sacred Texts, History, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology and field education. The curriculum has three distinctive features:

1. **Focus on Buddhist tradition and Buddhist practice:** The M.Div. BIE provides a solid foundation in the Buddhist tradition. M.Div. BIE students take at least 27 credits (9 courses) that focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Buddhist tradition and Buddhist practice. Required courses include: Buddhist Religious Thought and Practice; Introduction to Buddhist Meditation Practices; Socially Engaged Buddhism; and at least one STX course that engages Buddhist texts, such as Indian Buddhist Texts or Zen Buddhist Texts.

2. **Focus on interreligious engagement:** The M.Div. BIE provides sustained exposure to other religious traditions and interreligious engagement. Students are required to take at least 16 credits (5 courses) on Christianity, another religious tradition, and the theory, methods, and approaches of interreligious engagement. Required courses include: Introduction to the Bible, Systematic Theology, and Religions in the City.

3. **Focus on social disparities:** In keeping with Union's broader curricula, the M.Div. BIE intentionally engages social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality, and other marginalizing forces. Integrated into many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, equanimity and compassion.

The M.Div. BIE 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:** In addition to courses offered at Union, M.Div. BIE 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 (GSAS), Drew University School of Theology, Fordham University Department of Theology and GSAS, General Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, New York Theological Seminary, and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary.

**Languages:** There is no language requirement for completion of the M.Div. BIE degree. However, based upon the student’s interests and intended vocation, study of certain languages—inclusive of, but not limited to Pali, Sanskrit and Chinese—is advised when possible.

**Note about Chaplaincy Certification:** Board certification as a chaplain generally requires an M.DIV., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organization (such as Buddhist Churches of America) or religious community. Students should check with their endorsing body for additional requirements.
**Anglican Studies Concentration**

Students should consult regularly with their academic advisor and the Dean of EDS@Union regarding the sequence of courses to be taken.
**MDiv, Anglican Studies Concentration**

**Description**
The MDiv with a concentration in Anglican Studies is a 78 credit, three-year professional graduate degree. This degree prepares individuals for diverse leadership roles within the Episcopal Church, including ordination, chaplaincy, or other ecclesiastical ministries.

The MDiv curriculum engages students in sustained and probing study of Bible, History, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology, Field Education, and Anglican Studies. The curriculum has three distinctive features:

1. The substitution of some core curriculum required electives (Practical Theology and Theology) while emphasizing the ministerial leadership pathway of Union’s MDiv program.

2. A concentration of at least 15 credits in Anglican Studies and an additional 9 credits in general electives (first-year seminar, last-semester seminar, and Spanish for Ministry).

3. Focus on social disparities: In keeping with Union’s broader curricula, the MDiv with a concentration in Anglican Studies intentionally engages social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality, and other marginalizing forces. Integrated into many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, equanimity and compassion.

The MDiv with a concentration in Anglican Studies 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. MDiv 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.

**Languages:** Spanish for Ministry is highly recommended. Students should consult with the Dean of EDS@Union. Rationale: Latinas/os constitute the fastest growing segment of the Episcopal Church and are rapidly becoming a key part of most congregational ministries. This course will offer students a working knowledge of liturgical Spanish for leading Episcopal worship services, as well as highlight some of the recurring challenges and opportunities that are unique to Latino ministry in the Episcopal Church. These include:

- Introducing Episcopal identity and polity of Episcopal Church (especially the role of women, LGBTQ persons, and the democratic role of the vestry/mission committee)
- Stewardship matters – pledge cards, planned giving, coupling stewardship and personal finance education
- Need for developing leadership models for one, bilingual congregation
- Developing ministries for first, second, and third generation Latinos
## UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
### MASTER OF DIVINITY COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET

### FIRST YEAR * FALL TERM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BX201</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH107</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST103</td>
<td>(or ST104 in spring)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT102</td>
<td>Anglican Studies Seminar 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>IE102</td>
<td>Or in fall of year 2 or 3</td>
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### FIRST YEAR * SPRING TERM

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<tr>
<td>CH108</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST104</td>
<td>(or ST103 in fall)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anglican Studies elective (optional)</td>
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### SECOND YEAR * FALL TERM

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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH109</td>
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<tr>
<td>FE103</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS110</td>
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<td>ST104</td>
<td>Modern Anglican Theology</td>
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### SECOND YEAR * SPRING TERM

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<tr>
<td>CWxxx</td>
<td>Introduction to Preaching</td>
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### THIRD YEAR * FALL TERM

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<td>SU185</td>
<td>Spanish for Ministry</td>
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### THIRD YEAR * SPRING TERM

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### THIRD YEAR * SPRING TERM

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<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IE102</td>
<td>(if needed)</td>
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<td>SU185</td>
<td>Spanish for Ministry</td>
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<td>Anglican Studies elective (optional)</td>
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**STUDENT NAME:**

**ANGLICAN STUDIES**

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**STUDENT NAME:**

**ANGLICAN STUDIES**

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**STUDENT NAME:**

**ANGLICAN STUDIES**
### M.DIV. – M.S.S.W. DEGREE PLANNER

- **Total Credits Required**: 105 credits (minimum) required
- **Union Credits**: 60 credits
- **Columbia University Credits**: 45 credits

### BIBLE (10-13 cr.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>OPTION A (11-13 cr.)</th>
<th>OPTION B (10 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OT 101 (4 cr.) ¹</td>
<td>BX 101 (4 cr.) ¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT 101a (1 cr.) ¹</td>
<td>AND</td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT 101 (4) ²</td>
<td>Another OT course (3 cr.) ³</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT101a (1 cr.) ²</td>
<td>OT 204 or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND EITHER</td>
<td>OT_______ or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BX 201 (3 cr.) ²</td>
<td>BX_______</td>
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</table>

*For Option A students not pursuing ordination, chaplaincy or other ecclesial ministry:*
- OT 204 or NT 204 or
- NT_______ or
- BX_______ (but not BX101) ⁴

### HISTORY (6-7 cr.)

<table>
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<th>OPTION A (6 cr.)</th>
<th>OPTION B (6-7 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH 107 (2 cr.) AND</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH 108 (2 cr.) AND</td>
<td>CH 109 (2 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND EITHER</td>
<td>AND EITHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another History course (3 cr.)</td>
<td>Another History course (3 cr.)</td>
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<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two of the following:</td>
<td>Two of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 107 (2 cr.)</td>
<td>CH 107 (2 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 108 (2 cr.)</td>
<td>CH 108 (2 cr.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CH 109 (2 cr.) | CH 109 (2 cr.)

### THEOLOGY (6 cr.)

- ST 103 or ST 104 (3 cr.)
- Another Theology Course (3 cr.)
- Another IE course (3 cr.)

### INTER-RELIGIOUS (6 cr.)

- IE 102 (3 cr.)
- Another IE course (3 cr.)

### PRACTICAL THEOLOGY (6 cr.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION A (6 cr.)</th>
<th>OPTION B (6 cr.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CW 103 OR CW 104 (3 cr.) ⁶</td>
<td>CA 101 (3 cr.) ⁷</td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another Practical Th. Course</td>
<td>Another Practical Th. Course</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### GENERAL ELECTIVES (20 - 24 cr.)

- _____ ( )
- _____ ( )
- _____ ( )
- _____ ( )
- _____ ( )
- _____ ( )

### DUAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- **CS 331**: Integrative Seminar (2 cr.) at Union
- **MSSW Courses**: (45 cr.) at Columbia University

---

Red courses in blocks marked **Option A** should be chosen by students who aspire to ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries. Those considering ordination must be mindful of their denominational ordination requirements.

Courses in blocks marked **Option B** are designed to accommodate students who plan to work in other contexts. Students in this category may choose either **Option A** (red or blue) or **Option B** in one or more fields.

Students who begin a block of **Option A** or **Option B** courses within a field must satisfy all requirements of that block in order to fulfill degree requirements in that field.

See notes (over) for exceptions, exemptions, additional options, and guidance.

---

*6/4/15*
IMPORTANT NOTES * PLEASE READ

BIBLICAL FIELD

1. All students who take OT101 must also take NT101 and vice versa.

2. Option A courses in Red: Students who are considering ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries should choose BX 201 to complete Option A requirements.

3. Option A courses in Blue: These courses are intended for second-year M.Div. students who have chosen Option A but for whom BX 201/CW 104 is not consistent with or necessary for their anticipated ministerial contexts. In other words, students who have taken the OT/NT101 (and 101a, when required) pairing in Option A but who are not (or are no longer) considering ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries, may substitute a blue course for BX201 in order to complete their Biblical field requirements.

4. Option A students may not take BX 101 (Introduction to the Bible) as an elective.

5. Option B students who do not identify as Christian may substitute one course on a sacred text other than the Christian Bible (e.g. the Qur’an) for one of the OT or NT courses listed in the Option B block. Such non-biblical Sacred Text courses (STX) may be cross-listed as IE/STX courses.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FIELD

6. BX 201 should be taken by anyone planning to do ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries and should be taken before CW 104 (Fundamentals of Preaching). Students who choose Bible Option B may take BX 201 in fulfillment of one of their Biblical course requirements or electives as long as they are also enrolled in CW 101.

7. Option A students who take CW104 (after completing BX 201) may take CA 102 (Communication Arts) either in fulfillment of their Practical Theology Field requirements or as a free elective.

INTERRELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT FIELD

8. Students who take a Sacred Text (STX) course to fulfill the Bible requirements must take another IE course to complete the second IE requirement.
### BIBLE (10-13 cr.)

**OPTION A** (11-13 cr.)
- OT 101 (4 cr.)
- NT 101 (4)
- AND
- EITHER
  - BX 201 (3 cr.)
  - OR
  - For Option A students not pursuing ordination, chaplaincy or other ecclesial ministry:
    - OT 204 or NT 204 or
    - NT____ or
    - BX____ (but not BX101 or 201)

**OPTION B** (10 cr.)
- BX 101 (4 cr.)
  - AND
  - Another OT course (3 cr.)
  - OR
  - OT 204 or
  - NT____ or
  - BX____

### HISTORY (6-7 cr.)

**OPTION A** (6 cr.)
- CH 107 (2 cr.) AND
- CH 108 (2 cr.) AND
- CH 109 (2 cr.)

**OPTION B** (6-7 cr.)
- CH 101 (3 cr.)
  - AND EITHER
  - Another History course (3 cr.)

Two of the following:
- CH 107 (2 cr.)
- CH 108 (2 cr.)
- CH 109 (2 cr.)

### PRACTICAL THEOLOGY (6 cr.)

**OPTION A** (6 cr.)
- CW 101 (& BX 201) (3 cr.)
  - AND
  - Another Practical Th. Course

**OPTION B** (6 cr.)
- CA 101 (3 cr.)
  - AND
  - Another Practical Th. Course

### THEOLOGY (6 cr.)

**OPTION A**
- ST 103 or ST 104

**OPTION B**
- IE 102 (3 cr.)
  - AND
  - Another Theology Course

### INTER-RELIGIOUS (6 cr.)

**OPTION A**
- SSW 701-702 (Policy & Services I & II, 6 cr.)
- SSW 717 or 718 (Practice Lab, 6 cr.)
- SSW 761,762,763,764 (Field Practicum, 12 cr.)
- SSW 721-23,731-33, 741-43, 781-83 series (Concentration/Methods, 9 cr. per series)
- SSW 751-752 (Research, 6 cr.)
- SSW 711-712 (Human Behavior I, II & III, 9 cr.)
- SW Elective _________ (3 cr.)

**OPTION B**
- Integrative Seminar Parts I & II (6 cr.)

### DUAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**At Silberman**
- SSW 701-702 (Policy & Services I & II, 6 cr.)
- SSW 717 or 718 (Practice Lab, 6 cr.)
- SSW 761,762,763,764 (Field Practicum, 12 cr.)
- SSW 721-23,731-33, 741-43, 781-83 series (Concentration/Methods, 9 cr. per series)
- SSW 751-752 (Research, 6 cr.)
- SSW 711-712 (Human Behavior I, II & III, 9 cr.)
- SW Elective _________ (3 cr.)

**At Union /Silberman**
- Integrative Seminar Parts I & II (6 cr.)

#### UTS GENERAL ELECTIVES (10-14 cr.)

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<th>Credits</th>
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<td>6 cr. (one unit)</td>
<td>CPE strongly recommended</td>
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#### UTS/SILBERMAN DUAL M.DIV. – M.S.W. DEGREE PLANNER

- **105 combined credits required**
- **48 Union credits**
- **51 Silberman credits**
- **6 common credits**

Red courses in blocks marked Option A should be chosen by students who aspire to ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries. Those considering ordination must be mindful of their denominational ordination requirements.

Courses in blocks marked Option B are designed to accommodate students who plan to work in other contexts. Students in this category may choose either Option A (red or blue) or Option B in one or more fields.

Students who begin a block of Option A or Option B courses within a field must satisfy all requirements of that block in order to fulfill degree requirements in that field.

See notes (over) for exceptions, exemptions, additional options, and guidance.

- **24 Silberman credits recognized by UTS in satisfaction of 78 credit M.Div.**
- **9 Union credits recognized by Silberman in satisfaction of 60 credit M.S.W degree.**
IMPORTANT NOTES * PLEASE READ

BIBLICAL FIELD

1. All students who take OT101 must also take NT101 and vice versa.

2. Option A courses in Red: Students who are considering ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries should choose BX 201, CW 104, and CW 103 to complete Option A requirements.

3. Option A courses in Blue: These courses are intended for second-year M.Div. students who have chosen Option A but for whom BX 201/CW 101 is not consistent with or necessary for their anticipated ministerial contexts. In other words, students who have taken the OT/NT101 (and 101a, when required) pairing in Option A but who are not (or are no longer) considering ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries, may substitute a blue course for BX201 in order to complete their Biblical field requirements.

4. Option A students may not take BX 101 (Introduction to the Bible) as an elective.

5. Option B students who do not identify as Christian may substitute one course on a sacred text other than the Christian Bible (e.g. the Qur’an) for one of the OT or NT courses listed in the Option B block. Such non-biblical Sacred Text courses (STX) may be cross-listed as IE/STX courses.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FIELD

6. BX 201 should be taken by anyone planning to do ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries and should be taken before CW 104 (Fundamentals of Preaching). Students who choose Bible Option B may take BX 201 in fulfillment of one of their Biblical course requirements or electives.

7. Option A students who take CW104 (after completing BX 201) may take CA 102 (Communication Arts) either in fulfillment of their Practical Theology Field requirements or as a free elective.

INTERRELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT FIELD

8. Students who take a Sacred Text (STX) course to fulfill the Bible requirements must take another IE course to complete the second IE requirement.
### Dual Degree: MSW/MDiv

105 credits: 48 UTS; 51 Silberman; 6 integrated

#### YEAR 1

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<td>CH 107 or CH 109</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
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<td>ST 103 (or ST 104 in spring)</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>ST 104 (or ST 103 in fall)</td>
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<td>IE 102</td>
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<td>SSW 717</td>
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<td>CH 107 or 109 OR CH elective</td>
<td>2-3 credits</td>
<td>IE elective</td>
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<td>PS101 &amp; PS110 (for CPE) or practical theology elective</td>
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Summer CPE – recommended elective (6 credits)

#### YEAR 3

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSW 761</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>SSW 762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW 721/741</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>SSW 722/742</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSW 711</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>SSW 712</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTS general elective</td>
<td>1-3 credits</td>
<td>UTS general elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTS general elective</td>
<td>1-3 credits</td>
<td><strong>Integrative Seminar</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summer CPE – recommended elective (6 credits)

#### YEAR 4

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>FALL</strong></th>
<th><strong>SPRING</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSW763</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>SSW764</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SSW752</td>
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<td>SSW713</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>UTS general elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTS general elective</td>
<td>1-3 credits</td>
<td><strong>Integrative Seminar</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The required number of UTS general elective credits ranges from 10-14 credits depending on a student’s Option A or Option B choices in the Biblical, Historical, or Practical fields. Most electives carry three credits but some may carry one or two credits (e.g., SU courses and guided readings).

** Silberman requires two 3-credit electives. Silberman will accept 3 UTS elective credits in satisfaction of one 3-credit Silberman course.

*** The Integrative Seminar satisfies both UTS and Silberman requirements.
The MDiv requirements mandate that certain courses shall be taken in the first half of the program, but considerable liberty in course selection is introduced for the second half when students choose courses with a program concentration in mind. Information about options available for the program concentration is given below.

Program Concentration Requirements

The program concentration of the MDiv degree will permit the student to choose an area within the theological disciplines for concentrated study or to organize his/her studies with particular professional requirements in mind. During the second year (or its equivalent, if one is attending part-time), the student selects a program concentration from among options that have been approved by the Faculty, or the student and a faculty advisor together design an individualized concentration around some organizing principle or idea. In any event, every MDiv student must report his or her choice of concentration to the registrar no later than the end of the second year.

Program concentrations can be seen to divide along lines of professional preparation for a particular vocation, on the one hand, and deeper study in a particular academic discipline on the other. A concentration can also--and in its ideal form, probably will--combine thorough vocational preparation with rigorous intellectual engagement of a particular academic discipline. For example, the Pastoral Ministry and Theology concentration will seek to insure that the student has studied an array of subjects intended to strengthen a professional career, but can also go deeper into scholarly issues of a particular academic subject.

Program Concentrations

Information and guidance are given below for the following concentrations:

I. Pastoral Ministry and Theology
II. Ministry and Social Work
III. Bible – either Old Testament or New Testament
IV. Historical studies and Church History
V. Theology
VI. Theology and the Arts
VII. Psychology and Religion
VIII. Christian Social Ethics
IX. Interreligious Engagement
X. Preaching and Worship
XI. Church/Religion and Society
XII. Interdisciplinary
XIII. Islam and Interreligious Engagement
XIV. Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement
XV. Anglican Studies
The interdisciplinary concentration can be flexible enough to accommodate generalists as well as specialists; that is, a concentration may include courses spread across several curricular fields.

**Minimum Credits Required For Program Concentration**

At least 15 credits (normally five courses) of the student’s elective work for the degree are to be related to the program concentration. It is to be noted that 15 credits are simply the minimum. Additional courses taken simply as electives for the degree may also contribute to the student’s concentration. Courses counted toward the concentration must be taken for full credit, not as an audit or for R-credit. Alternatively, a student may want to use those electives to develop a specialization, in addition to the major program concentration.

Normally, the thesis or senior project will focus on a topic that is related to the area of the concentration.

**Recorded On Transcript**

The student’s concentration will be recorded on his/her official transcript upon graduation.

**I. Pastoral Ministry & Theology Concentration**

This concentration is intended especially for the student who is preparing for a career in Christian ministry as pastor of a church or as the leader in some other manner of a faith community. It entails specialized engagement of several subject areas of the curriculum that will build upon knowledge achieved through the core requirements of the degree. Besides the core requirements the Pastoral Ministry concentration strongly recommends

- an additional course in biblical exegesis,
- an additional course in preaching,
- an additional course in liturgy and public worship,
- an additional course in pastoral care,
- an additional course in religious education,
- Students in this Ministry Concentration are encouraged to take both semesters of the Systematic Theology introductions (ST 103 and ST 104), even though, strictly speaking, only one of these courses is required for the degree.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is strongly recommended as an additional elective for ministry students.

Some training in church administration is strongly recommended as an additional elective in this concentration.

Union Theological Seminary does not ordain persons to ministry, but it intends, insofar as possible, to make studies available to students that will adequately prepare them for the ordination examinations and requirements of their denominations. A course in the polity of one’s church, for example, while not listed in the guidelines for this concentration is a course that should be taken. Students are well advised to become thoroughly familiar with the ordination requirements and processes of their denominations from the outset of their studies. Attending seminary (in and of itself) is only part of the preparation for ordination expected by most churches. Information from judicatory authorities of the student’s denomination will be invaluable in planning the student’s entire program of study.

For students who are members of particular communions, cross registration for some courses at other seminaries may become a useful element of their program planning.
II. Ministry & Social Work
For MDiv students who are also candidates for the MSSW or MSW in the dual-degrees programs with Columbia University and Silberman School of Social Work (Hunter College), the program concentration requirement is satisfied by the student’s studies at the School of Social Work and the integrative seminar at Union.

III. Bible
Students who choose the Bible concentration will normally take a combination of courses in Old and New Testament, although students who take the bulk of their courses in OT or NT may specifically elect to have their concentration designated as such. The Bible concentration strongly recommends
- two terms of Biblical Hebrew or Biblical Greek,
- three additional courses in Bible at the 200-level or above (OT, NT, BX),
- a thesis or senior project related to Bible on a topic agreed upon with an advisor in the Bible Field.

IV. Historical Studies & Church History
Students who choose to concentrate in historical studies and church history will work in two areas: (1) a major area (earning 9 credits in courses approved by the faculty advisor) and (2) a minor area (completing 6 credits in two courses approved by the advisor). Specific requirements include the following:
- prepare a thesis related to the major concentration in the senior year, or, in consultation with the student’s adviser, take two additional elective courses that support the concentration;
- students of the Early Church concentration will take a course in biblical exegesis as part of the 9 “major” areas;
- students with the major concentration of the Reformation and Early Modern, and Modern Christianity and other historical studies will be expected to take a relevant course outside the Field.

V. Theology
The student whose concentration is theology will select, with the approval of the program faculty advisor,
- four courses in Systematic Theology (in addition to the ST course required for the degree),
- one related course in another department or field of the curriculum,
- a thesis on a subject related to the major concentration may be prepared in the senior year or the student may take additional courses totaling 6 credits in lieu of a thesis.

VI. Theology and the Arts
Students who choose Theology and the Arts as their Program Concentration are expected to be knowledgeable beforehand about the arts, and proficient in some art form (music, visual art, dance, etc.) prior to beginning the MDiv degree. The Theology & the Arts concentration strongly recommends courses
- in worship and the arts, ritual performance and criticism, and
- additional courses specifically approved for the Concentration by faculty advisor;
• a senior project or thesis related to the major concentration is to be prepared in the senior year.

VII. Psychology & Religion
The program concentration in Psychology and Religion consists of the following:
• PS 110 (Pastoral Listening Practicum) (1 credit prerequisite for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) (required)
• PS 101 (Introduction to Pastoral/Spiritual Care) (2 credits, highly recommended for CPE)
• A total of 15 credits in PS courses or other related or cross-registered courses with approval of the Professor of Psychology and Religion,
• complete a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in excess of the 15 credits required for the concentration, and
• prepare a thesis related to the major concentration in the senior year, or take two additional elective courses that support the concentration.
*Students declaring Psychology & Religion as their concentration must take the 15 required PS credits for full credit, not R credit.*

VIII. Christian Social Ethics
The program concentration in Christian Social Ethics strongly recommends that the student study
• a foundational course in Christian Ethics,
• two advanced level courses in Christian ethics and social justice studies,
• two additional courses in the theological and ethics field as approved by the faculty advisor,
• a thesis on a subject related to the major concentration is to be prepared in the senior year.

IX. Interreligious Engagement
Students with a program concentration in interreligious engagement are strongly recommended to take
• one tradition-specific course (ex., Introduction to Islam)
• one comparison course (ex., Buddhist-Christian Dialogue)
• one theory and methods course (ex. Comparative Theology, Theology of Religions)
• at least one semester-long interreligious field placement (ex. an interfaith organization, a multi-religious institution, or placement in a tradition other than one’s own, etc.)
• one additional IE course, a course in a related field, or a second semester of IE field placement

X. Preaching & Worship
Students whose program concentration is preaching and worship are strongly recommended to complete
• CW 103 and CW 104
• one advanced course in Preaching
• one advanced course in Worship
• one additional advanced course in Preaching or Worship
• an additional course in another department of the curriculum that is relevant to the concentration
• a thesis or senior project in the senior year related to the concentration material.

XI. Church/Religion & Society
The Church/Religion and Society concentration focuses on the roles of religion and Christianities in relation to structures of oppression, and potentialities of liberation for individuals and society. Opportunities for engagement with ministries in various contexts in New York City will provide praxis-oriented pastoral/ministerial learning for students. Opportunities provided for ministerial learning engages students across various religious traditions in New York City. Students will study churches as social institutions and consider religion from sociological perspectives in at least five courses, including:
• Methods in the Study of Urban Life and Religion
• Liberation Theologies and Pentecostalism
• African Religions in the Americas
• Contemporary Theories of the Sociology of Religion
• Major Thinkers in the Sociology of Religion: Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Dubois

XII. The Interdisciplinary Program Concentration
The Interdisciplinary Concentration is intended to support MDiv students in broadly approaching their studies and vocational goals. It allows students to cluster their 15 credits of courses around either
• an issue, problem, or movement that deploys the perspectives and tools of multiple disciplines and fields (for example: Black theology, feminisms and feminist theologies; eco-justice; poverty), or
• the histories, practices, challenges and concerns of ministry with a specific community in mind, again informed by multiple disciplines (for example: Black church ministry; Latina/o ministry; ministry in the gay community; ministries with immigrants, people in prisons, and so forth).

A faculty member must approve the student’s plan for an interdisciplinary concentration and agree to serve as the program advisor.

In the interdisciplinary concentration, the student is required to prepare a thesis or other project (for six credits) in the senior year that demonstrates how the multiple disciplines and fields have been brought together.

XIII. Islam and Interreligious Engagement (see appendices A2 and E2)

XIV. Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement (see appendices A3 and E3)

XVI. Anglican Studies (see appendix A5)
Cross-Registration - at Columbia University
Union Theological Seminary
Registrar

Overview:
Union Theological Seminary students intending to take a course at Columbia University (CU) are required to complete this form. Courses that are available for cross-registration begin with the letters G, R, U, or W and must be at the 3000 level or higher. Data is shared with the registrar at CU for proper data entry and course registration. Once approved and entered by the registrar, the CU course will be applied to your Union record and available on your class schedule via the SSO.

Graduating students taking CU courses their final spring semester:
You must notify the instructor that you are a graduating student and request that your final grade be submitted to the registrar’s office on or before Union’s grading deadline for graduating students.

Dates/Deadlines:
- Fall 2018 Cross-Registration Forms were due by July 15, 2018.
- Spring 2019 Cross-Registration Forms are due by November 30, 2018

1. Complete the form in its entirety and follow the below steps to obtain your advisor’s approval.
2. Select the "Save and Resume Later" at the bottom of the form.
3. Copy the provided URL of the completed form and paste it into an email to the advisor.
4. Email the URL to your advisor requesting they complete their portion of the form. Save a copy of the URL as this is the only way to access the form in progress.
5. Share the below instructions with the faculty when emailing the URL.

Advisor Instructions:
1. Open the email link sent by the student which contains their completed form.
2. Select "Next" to approve/sign and date.
3. Select "Submit Form" to send to registrar.

Student Information

https://utsnyc.formstack.com/forms/cu_xreg
First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth *

Email *

@utsnyc.edu

Degree Program *

M.A.

M.Div.

M.Div./M.S.S.W

S.T.M.

D.Min.

Ph.D.

UNI *

Phone *

Address *

How many credits have you previously taken in other schools that you plan to count toward degree requirements at Union? *

Maximum allowed: M.Div., 12 credits; M.A., 9 credits; S.T.M., 6 credits; Ph.D., 12 credits (except Bible students)
ZIP Code

Academic Advisor Name *

Academic Advisor Email *

First Name

@uts.columbia.edu

Last Name

Course Information

Term/Year *

(Select One)

Course Number *

Only courses beginning with the letters G, R, U or W courses at 3000 level or higher are permitted per the agreement.

Title *

Credits *

Call Number *

Unique 5-digit number assigned to each CU course that is required for registration.

Instructor Name *

Instructor Approval *

- I have secured email permission from the instructor and have forwarded/will forward to registrar@utsnyc.edu.

Powered by Formstack  Create your own form
I have contacted the instructor for permission and am waiting for a response.

- I have not yet contacted the instructor for permission, but I will do so and will forward to registrar@utsnyc.edu

How will taking this course contribute to your program at Union? *

Student Sign and Date

Signature *  Date *

Save and Resume Later
Appendix C2

Cross-Registration - Theological Courses

Union Theological Seminary

Registrar

Overview:
Union Theological Seminary students intending to take a course at a school participating in the below agreements are required to complete this form. Data is shared with the registrar at the host institution. Once approved and entered by the registrar, the course will be applied to your Union record and available on your class schedule via the SSO.

Students are limited to one course per semester, and the following number of total credits, at institutions within the consortium:

- Master of Arts: 12 credits
- Master of Divinity: 15 credits
- Master of Sacred Theology: 6 credits
- Doctor of Philosophy (except Bible): 12 credits

NY Theological Consortium Partner Schools:

- Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education
- The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church
- Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
- Jewish Theological Seminary
- New York Theological Seminary
- St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Drew University Theological School:

- Union students are permitted to take courses in the areas of United Methodist history, theology, and polity and other courses specifically related to the life and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

Graduating students taking courses at an above school their final spring semester
You must notify the instructor that you are graduating and request that your final grade be submitted to the Registrar's Office on or before Union's deadline for final grades for graduating students.

Dates/Deadlines:

- This completed and approved *Cross-Registration Form* is due to the Union registrar by:
  - April 30 for Summer 2018
  - July 15 for Fall 2018
  - November 30 for Spring 2019

Instructions:

1. Select "Next" to make sure the form was completed in its entirety.
2. The Academic Advisor Approval page should appear. Select the "Save and Resume Later" link.
3. Select "Save and get link" when the window opens.
4. Copy the provided URL of the completed form and paste it in an email to your academic advisor copying the Dean.
5. Email the URL to your advisor requesting they complete their portion of this form.
6. After signed and dated, the advisor should complete steps 2-5 above to send to the Dean.
7. Share the below instructions with advisor and Dean when emailing the URL.

Advisor Instructions:

1. Open the email link sent by the student which displays their completed portion of the form.
2. Select "Next" to complete the advisor portion.
3. More instructions exist in that approval portions of the form.

---

**Student Information**

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email *

@utsnyc.edu

UNI *

Date of Birth *

Phone *

Address *

---

https://utsnyc.formstack.com/forms/crossreg_theological_courses
City
State
ZIP Code

Degree Program *
- M.A.
- M.Div.
- M.Div./M.S.S.W
- S.T.M.
- D.Min.
- Ph.D.

How many credits have you previously taken in other schools that you plan to count toward degree requirements at Union? *

Maximum allowed: M.Div., 12 credits; M.A., 9 credits; S.T.M., 6 credits; Ph.D., 12 credits (except Bible students)

Academic Advisor Name *
Academic Advisor Email *
- @uts.columbia.edu

How will taking this course contribute to your program at Union? *
Course Information

Host Institution *
- The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church
- Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
- Jewish Theological Seminary
- New York Theological Seminary
- St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
- Fordham University
- Drew Theological

Have you previously taken a course at one of the theological schools listed above? *
- Yes
- No

Term/Year *
(Select One)

Course Number *

Title *

Credits *
Instructor Name *

First Name

Last Name

Instructor Approval *

- I have secured email permission from the instructor, and have forwarded/will forward to registrar@utsnyc.edu.

- I have not secured permission, but have contacted the instructor and am waiting for a response.

Code of Conduct *

- I acknowledge that I will abide by the code of conduct at the host institution.

Student Sign and Date

My electronic signature below acknowledges that I will abide by the code of conduct at the host institution. By entering my signature and date below, I authorize the host institution to release my academic transcript to the consortium coordinator at my home institution (Union Theological Seminary) after the final grade has been posted to my record. I grant the consortium coordinator at the home and host institutions permission to release, disclose, and discuss pertinent records and information in their possession, with each other.

Signature *

Date *

07 19 18

Save and Resume Later
UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR ePORTFOLIO

Every UTS student has an ePortfolio: a folder created by the Academic Office. That folder lives in the student’s Google Drive associated with her or his utsnyc.edu email address (not the Drive connected to any personal Gmail account). If you cannot access your ePortfolio after following these instructions, contact Chris McFadden at cmcfadden@utsnyc.edu or write to academics@utsnyc.edu for assistance.

To access your Google Drive, go to your utsnyc.edu email inbox. In the upper right hand corner of the screen there is an icon of nine small squares. Float your mouse over the icon to see “Google Apps” icon.

Click on the “Google Apps” icon. A menu of apps will appear including the Google Drive icon.

Click on the Drive icon. Your list of Google Drive folders is displayed.

On the left of this screen, click on the folder named “Shared with me.”

Look for your ePortfolio in the “Shared with me” folder. The folder is named like this:

[Your degree] ePortfolio - (2017) LastName, FirstName - ab1234

(your entering year) your name - your UNI)

Click on the ePortfolio folder to open the contents of your ePortfolio.

How to Upload a Document to Your ePortfolio

Click on your ePortfolio to open it. In the upper-left corner of the screen, find the “NEW” button. Click the “NEW” button, and click “File upload” from the pull-down menu. Browse for and select your file. In a few moments, an upload status box will say “1 upload complete” and you’re done! Your uploaded file will be shared automatically with your Assessment team.

Please follow this Naming Convention for academic work files uploaded to the ePortfolio:

Last Name First Name Course # Instructor Name Genre/title; for example, Bidlack, Beth NT101 Niang Exegetical Paper (or Revelation Paper)

You may access your ePortfolio at any time.

Warning for device users:

If you are using Gmail in a web browser on a device such as a smartphone or tablet, you may not have access to Google Apps (you won’t see the Google Apps square icon in your inbox). If you download the free Google Drive app for your device and sign in to your UNI Gmail account, you can access your Drive and ePortfolio directly.
Appendix E1

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-credentialled 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.

UNION
Master of Divinity
Islam & Interreligious Engagement Option (M.Div. IIE)

The Islam and Interreligious Engagement option within the Master of Divinity (M.Div. IIE) is a 78 credit, three-year professional graduate degree. This degree prepares individuals for diverse leadership roles working with and in Muslim communities. These roles include religious and spiritual leadership; chaplaincy at universities, hospitals, or prisons; professional counseling; teaching; and careers in interreligious/interfaith cooperation, policy-making, social justice advocacy, journalism, non-profits, and government.

The M.Div. IIE curriculum engages students in sustained and probing study of Sacred Texts, History, Systematic Theology and Islamic Religious Sciences, Practical Theology, and Field education. The curriculum has three distinctive features:

1. **Focus on Islamic tradition and Muslim practice:** The M.Div. IIE provides a robust foundation in Islamic tradition. M.Div. IIE students take at least 27 credits (9 courses) that focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Islamic tradition and Muslim practice. Required courses include: The Qur'an: Engaging a Sacred Text; Islamic Religious Thought and Practice; Islamic History; Islam & Religious Diversity; and Women, Islam & Interpretation.

2. **Focus on interreligious engagement:** The M.Div. IIE provides sustained exposure to other religious traditions and interreligious engagement. Students are required to take at least 16 credits (5 courses) on Christianity, another religious tradition, and the theory, methods, and approaches of interreligious engagement. Required courses include: Introduction to the Bible, Systematic Theology, and Religions of the City.

3. **Focus on social disparities:** in keeping with Union’s broader curricula, the M.Div. IIE intentionally engages social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality, and other marginalizing forces. Integrated into many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, and spiritual compassion.

The M.Div. IIE 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: in addition to courses offered at Union, M.Div. IIE 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 (GSAS), 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.

**IIE Summer Program:** M.Div. IIE students are strongly encouraged to participate in the International Institute of Islamic Thought's (IIIT) Summer Student Program. This program introduces foundational fields in Islamic religious sciences and a variety of other thematic topics. It also exposes students to Islamic Studies faculty from across the United States. Students may earn up to 4 cr. for successful participation in this program.

**Languages:** There is no language requirement for completion of the M.Div. IIE degree. However, based upon the student’s interests and intended vocation, study of certain languages—inclusive of, but not limited to, Arabic—is strongly advised. Students can take Arabic through Hunter College and other summer programs.

**Note about Chaplaincy Certification:** Board certification as a chaplain generally requires an M.Div., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organization (such as ISNA) or religious community. Students should check with their endorsing body for additional requirements.
Master of Divinity
Buddhism & Interreligious Engagement Option (M.Div. BIE)

The Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement option within the Master of Divinity (M.Div. BIE) is a 78 credit, three-year professional graduate degree. This degree prepares individuals for diverse leadership roles working with and in Buddhist communities as well as bringing Buddhist practices and principles to communities that may not identify as Buddhist. These roles include religious and spiritual leadership; chaplaincy at universities, hospitals, or prisons; professional counseling; teaching; and careers in interreligious/interfaith cooperation, policy-making, social justice advocacy, journalism, non-profits, and government.

The M.Div. BIE curriculum engages students in sustained and probing study of Sacred Texts, History, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology and field education. The curriculum has three distinctive features:

1. **Focus on Buddhist tradition and Buddhist practice**: The M.Div. BIE provides a solid foundation in the Buddhist tradition. M.Div. BIE students take at least 27 credits (9 courses) that focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Buddhist tradition and Buddhist practice. Required courses include: Buddhist Religious Thought and Practice; Introduction to Buddhist Meditation Practices; Socially Engaged Buddhism; and at least one STX course that engages Buddhist texts, such as Indian Buddhist Texts or Zen Buddhist Texts.

2. **Focus on interreligious engagement**: The M.Div. BIE provides sustained exposure to other religious traditions and interreligious engagement. Students are required to take at least 16 credits (5 courses) on Christianity, another religious tradition, and the theory, methods, and approaches of interreligious engagement. Required courses include: Introduction to the Bible, Systematic Theology, and Religions in the City.

3. **Focus on social disparities**: In keeping with Union’s broader curricula, the M.Div. BIE intentionally engages social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality, and other marginalizing forces. Integrated into many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, equanimity and compassion.

The M.Div. BIE 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: In addition to courses offered at Union, M.Div. BIE 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 (GSAS), Drew University School of Theology, Fordham University Department of Theology, General Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, New York Theological Seminary, and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Languages: There is no language requirement for completion of the M.Div. BIE degree. However, based upon the student’s interests and intended vocation, study of certain languages—inclusive of, but not limited to Pali, Sanskrit and Chinese—is advised when possible.

Note about Chaplaincy Certification: Board certification as a chaplain generally requires an M.Div., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organization (such as Buddhist Churches of America) or religious community. Students should check with their endorsing body for additional requirements.
Important Information & Instructions

Master of Divinity students graduating in May are required to select one of the following options:

- Six credits for a thesis
- Six credits for a senior project
- Six credits from elective courses

A thesis or a senior project must be approved by members of the faculty. *Your declared program focus may recommend a particular option.*

A senior project may invoke a range of possibilities, different from the research essay indicated by the thesis option. (Some examples are art exhibit, performance, play-writing, musical composition.) The idea for, and the shape of, a student’s senior project must be approved by the faculty member directing the work. The requirements of the project, and of the faculty member’s expectations of the project, will be established for the individual student’s case at that time, but all senior projects must include a written academic paper of approximately 12-20 pages.

If Thesis option is selected:

1. The student obtains the approval of the faculty members who agree to serve as thesis advisor/first reader and second reader. Note: A thesis advisor is not necessarily the same professor who serves as the student’s program advisor, but the first reader must be a member of the faculty.
2. The subject of the thesis is determined with the readers, and the Thesis Proposal Template on the Registrar's webpage should be used to facilitate conversations.
3. Once faculty readers agree and a subject is determined, the student completes this form and sends it to the readers for approval.
4. Once approved, the student submits the form to the Registrar by **December 1**.
5. The thesis is due on **April 7** (or the first business day thereafter). The student also deposits a copy into their ePortfolio.

Guidelines for writing a thesis are available on [this portion](https://utsnyc.formstack.com/forms/thesis_proposal_m_div_students) of the Registrar’s webpage. See the [Academic Calendar](https://utsnyc.formstack.com/forms/thesis_proposal_m_div_students) for other deadlines during the thesis process.

If Senior Project option is selected:

1. The student obtains the approval of the faculty member(s) who agree to serve as primary and secondary supervisor. Note: This corresponds to first reader and second reader in the case of a thesis.
2. The subject of the the project is determined with the faculty supervisors and a brief description/scope is written.
3. Once the faculty supervisors agree and a subject is determined, the student completes this form and sends it to the faculty for approval.
5. The senior project is due on April 7 (or the first business day thereafter). The student also deposits a copy into their ePortfolio.

See the Academic Calendar for other deadlines during the project process.

By selecting one of the options below, and obtaining the faculty signature(s), you are committing yourself to your choice. **Once the form is submitted to the Registrar, changes between the below options are not permitted.** Therefore, consider your choices carefully and in conversation with the faculty advisor and prospective thesis advisors.

Student Name *

First Name

Last Name

Student Email *

Select one to populate appropriate portions of the form *

- I am completing a THESIS
- I am completing a FINAL PROJECT
- I am taking two ELECTIVES to fulfill the thesis requirement
- I am not graduating this May

**This form is due to the Registrar's Office by November 18.**

Save and Resume Later

Submit Form

https://utsnyc.formstack.com/forms/thesis_proposal_m_div_students